

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: BRUCE BUEL *B8TB*  
DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

**AGENDA ITEM  
E-5  
APRIL 8, 2009**

SOUTHLAND UPGRADE PROJECT EIR APPROVAL

**ITEM**

Review responses to request for proposals for preparation of Southland WWTF Upgrade EIR and authorize execution of agreement [AUTHORIZE EXECUTION]

**BACKGROUND**

Staff mailed out the attached RFP on February 9, 2009, to The Morro Group, Padre Associates, Rincon Consultants, URS and Doug Wood and Associates (DWA). Three firms (The Morro Group, Rincon and DWA) submitted the attached proposals by the March 17, 2009 deadline. Although each proposal was responsive, staff ranked Doug Wood's proposal the highest of the three proposals based on the attached matrix. The DWA proposal is the least expensive of the three proposals and obtained the highest or tied for highest score in regards to responsiveness, work product timeliness, qualifications and experience.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

Execution of an agreement with DWA would commit \$85,560 for completion of the Environmental Review. Funding for this work is available in the FY08-09 Budget in Sewer Capital Projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board select DWA to perform the requested services and authorize the General Manager to execute a services agreement on a time-and-materials basis with a not-to-exceed expenditure limit of \$85,560.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- RFP
- Proposals
- Matrix

t:\documents\board matters\board meetings\board letter 2009\Southland EIR Approval.doc

# NIPOMO COMMUNITY

## BOARD MEMBERS

JIM HARRISON, PRESIDENT  
LARRY VIERHEILIG, VICE PRESIDENT  
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CLIFFORD TROTTER, DIRECTOR  
ED EBY, DIRECTOR



# SERVICES DISTRICT

## STAFF

BRUCE BUEL, GENERAL MANAGER  
LISA BOGNUDA, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
JON SEITZ, GENERAL COUNSEL  
PETER SEVCIK, DISTRICT ENGINEER  
TINA GRIETENS, SUPERINTENDENT

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(805) 929-1133 FAX (805) 929-1932 Website address: [NCSD.CA.GOV](http://NCSD.CA.GOV)

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February 9, 2009

Various Environmental Firms

## **SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR CEQA REVIEW SERVICES – SOUTHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT**

Nipomo Community Services District ("District") intends to construct improvements to its Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to improve the quality of the discharge and the efficiency of the operation. These improvements are detailed in the January 2009 Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Master Plan (available at NCSD's Website [WWW.NCSD.CA.GOV](http://WWW.NCSD.CA.GOV)). They include replacement of the sewer collection main in South Frontage Road from Division Street to the headworks, construction of the influent pump station, construction of the screening and grit removal works, reconfiguration of the current treatment ponds, installation of the "Biolac" wave oxidation treatment system, construction of the external clarifiers, re-configuration of the sludge storage ponds, lining of the sludge drying beds and all related plumbing and instrumentation.

In addition to these upgrades, the District intends to evaluate multiple co-equal disposal options at a programmatic level. These options are described in January 2009 Preliminary Screening Evaluation of Southland WWTF Disposal Alternatives (available at NCSD's Website). Additional Geo-technical research is underway by Fugro West.

The District Board of Directors on January 14, 2009 reviewed the attached initial study describing both the specific upgrades described in the Master Plan and the disposal options described in the Preliminary Screening Evaluation. The Board determined that an EIR must be prepared to evaluate the specific upgrades at a project level and the disposal options at a programmatic level. These two components constitute the Project for CEQA review.

NCSD is seeking quotes from firms on the District's pre-qualified environmental review firm list to assist NCSD in scoping the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) including review of green house gases, preparing the Draft EIR, circulating the Draft EIR, interacting with the design engineer, interaction with the geo-hydrologist, responding to comments, preparing the Final EIR including a mitigation and monitoring program, preparing findings, and completing the required filings and notifications. The District expects to circulate a Draft EIR for the Project in summer 2009 and to certify a Final EIR in early 2010. The District expects to retain the design professional in March 2009, to complete the pre-bid phases of the design by the end of 2009 and to award bid(s) for construction in early 2010.

## SERVICES REQUESTED

The District requires environmental services to:

- Review background information including Initial Study, Master Plan and Screening Evaluation and meet with NCSD staff, Design Engineer and Fugro West;
- Conduct all Scoping Activities including notification required to Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties on NCSD's interested party list and developing recommendations regarding green house gas evaluation;
- Present responses and proposed scope amendments (10 hard copies) to NCSD and Board;
- Finalize Scope of Work for Draft EIR;
- Coordinate with Fugro, Design Engineer and District regarding project details and feasibility of mitigations;
- Prepare and submit Administrative Draft EIR (10 hard copies);
- Edit Administrative Draft to respond to District comments and submit Draft EIR (30 hard copies and 50 disks);
- Prepare Notice of Completion (NOC) and assist District in submitting NOC and attachments to OPR, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties;
- Receive comments and circulate comments to NCSD (10 hard copies).
- Prepare draft responses to comments and circulate to NCSD (10 hard copies);
- Prepare draft mitigation and monitoring program (MMP) and circulate to NCSD (10 hard copies);
- Prepare draft findings and circulate to NCSD (10 hard copies);
- Edit responses, MMP and Findings to respond to District comments and submit responses, mitigation monitoring program, findings (30 hard copies and 30 disks)
- Participate in Hearing(s) on responses, findings and MMP;
- Prepare and Submit Final EIR (30 hard copies and 30 disks);
- Prepare Notice of Determination and assist District in filing;
- Submit electronic copy of all work product deliverables in a format acceptable to NCSD.

## PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Seven copies of the proposal package must be received by NCSD in a sealed envelope by **3 p.m. on Tuesday March 17, 2009**, to be considered. The exterior of the envelope must identify the quote as "Southland CEQA Review". Faxes, E-Mails, proposals not enclosed in a sealed/labeled envelope, and proposals received after 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 17, 2009, will be returned to the submitter. The main proposal shall include as a minimum the following:

1. Introduction
  - Present your understanding of the project and the services requested;
  - Discuss any proposed scope amendments;
  - Clearly state objections to NCSD's Standard Agreement (attached) and provide proposed language to resolve the objection;
2. Scope of Services and Timeline
  - Describe your proposed approach to the assignment;
  - Describe your proposed timeline for execution of the requested services.

3. Personnel/Experience

- Provide a Statement of Qualifications;
- Identify the team leader and any additional team members;
- Provide a resume for any individual not included in the Statement of Qualifications;
- Describe the team's experience in preparing Wastewater Project EIRs;
- Describe your success in meeting project budgets and timelines for your last four projects and explain circumstances resulting in failures.

4. References

- Provide references for last four projects of similar scope;
- List the client's name, key contact, mailing address, e-mail and phone number on these projects;

5. Cost Estimate

- Submit a completed quote form (attached) that has been executed by a principal authorized to represent the firm.
- Provide a listing of fees and charges along with the hourly rates of all team members and all other fees and charges;

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

NCSD will screen proposals from March 17, 2009 to April 1, 2009. The Board is tentatively scheduled to select a firm at its April 8, 2009 meeting. An interview may be requested during the last week of March, 2009

### **QUOTE EVALUATION**

Quotes will be evaluated on the following:

- Responsiveness to Request for Proposal
- Quality/Experience of the Team on Similar Projects
- Work product timeliness
- Cost (Not to Exceed Expenditure Limit)
- Objections and proposed resolution of NCSD's Standard Agreement
- Alternatives proposed to requested Scope of Work

### **Notes:**

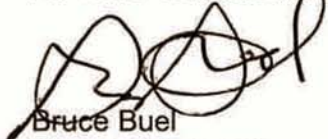
This is a time sensitive project. The District requires prompt attention to these matters. Consultant would be expected to execute NCSD's standard consulting agreement that calls for services to be provided on a time and materials basis with a not to exceed expenditure limit. The Not to Exceed expenditure limit submitted on the Quote Sheet shall be used as the Not to Exceed Expenditure Limit in the agreement.

NCSD reserves the right to reject all submittals and/or re-open submittals at its discretion. NCSD reserves the right to negotiate with lesser ranked firms if the negotiation with the top ranked firm is unsuccessful. The submitter retains no interest in the proposal once received by NCSD.

For more information on the project or this RFP, contact NCSD General Manager Bruce Buel at 805-929-1133 or [bbuel@nipomocsd.com](mailto:bbuel@nipomocsd.com).

Sincerely,

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Bruce Buel  
General Manager

CC: Peter Sevcik, District Engineer  
Tina Grietens, Superintendent

Enclosures

- Initial Study
- Agreement

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**SOUTHLAND UPGRADE "PROJECT"**  
**DEIR & FEIR QUOTE SHEET**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PRINCIPAL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT TO EXCEED EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR ALL FEES & CHARGES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Principal Authorized to Sign for Firm and Date

*This quote shall be valid for 90 Days from the date of Signature*

**PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES  
TO PREPARE**

**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
SOUTHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT**

**DRAFT AND FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**Prepared for:**

**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
148 S. Wilson Street  
Nipomo, CA 93444  
Attn: Mr. Bruce Buel, General Manager**

**Prepared by:**

**DOUGLAS WOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
1461 Higuera Street, Suite A  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401  
805-544-1680**

**March 17, 2009**

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## I. BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

It is our understanding that the Nipomo Community Services District (to be referred to herein as NCSD or the District) has the need for preparation of environmental documentation, that being a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Nipomo Community Services District Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. The proposed project involves three basic elements associated with the proposed expansion of wastewater treatment capacity at the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility: wastewater collection, treatment and disposal.

The existing 12-inch sewer trunk main which runs along South Frontage Road from Division Street to the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility at Southland Street and South Frontage Road will be replaced with a 21-inch pipeline.

The existing Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) currently has a permitted capacity of 900,000 gallons per day (gpd) with an average annual flow of 600,000 gpd and a maximum monthly flow of 800,000 gpd. This facility treats a combination of residential and industrial wastewater utilizing four aeration ponds and eight on-site percolation basins. Proposed improvements to the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) are intended to increase the treatment capacity to 1.4 million gallons per day from the current capacity of 0.9 million gallons per day. This increased treatment capacity is intended to serve both existing and future wastewater treatment demands generated within the Southland WWTF service area of the Nipomo Community Services District. Specific improvements to the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility include: 1) upgrading the influent pump station; 2) provision of headworks improvements utilizing screening and grit removal; 3) reconstructing two of the four existing treatment ponds with extended aeration capabilities and collection facilities for biosolids utilizing the Biolac wave oxidation system and 4) use of the two remaining treatment ponds for storage, decanting and disposal of biosolids.

The Nipomo Community Services District will expand the existing wastewater disposal capabilities in order to accommodate increased wastewater flows associated with the proposed treatment facilities improvements. The District has evaluated several methods of effluent disposal after treatment including discharge into percolation ponds, discharge into subsurface disposal systems, surface irrigation, recycling to recreation/open space areas or deep underground injection. Three separate locations for off-site effluent disposal will be evaluated equally in the EIR. Two options involve the provision of percolation basins at either the Pasquini or Kaminaka properties or the use of treated effluent for irrigation south of the existing treatment facility. Biosolids generated from wastewater treatment will be disposed of through one or a combination of methods including landfill disposal, land application or composting at a regional composting facility.

The proposed project also involves regulatory and public education efforts aimed at reducing salt loading from regenerative water softeners within the District. These efforts are intended to reduce salt loading at the Southland WWTF as well as at the off-site percolation ponds.

The proposed project will be constructed within two phases requiring a total of approximately ten months. Phase 1 will involve construction of upgraded collection and treatment facilities. Construction of the upgraded collection facilities (upsized pipeline on Frontage Road) is anticipated to require two months while upgrades to the treatment plant are estimated to require a total of seven months. Phase 2 will involve construction of transmission mains and disposal

## II. SCOPE OF WORK

### A. Work Plan

Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. will provide research and analysis as required for the preparation of a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed NCSD Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. We anticipate that this Draft and Final EIR will be prepared in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15120 et. seq.) as well as procedures adopted by the Nipomo Community Services District, as Lead Agency, relative to the California Environmental Quality Act. We perceive this effort being divided into nine major work tasks, the nature and extent of which are discussed below.

#### **Task 1 – Research and Analysis**

This task will commence with the review and consolidation of available data and background information pertinent to the proposed project. Information to be reviewed includes, but may not be limited to, the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Master Plan, dated January, 2009 and the Revised Draft Preliminary Screening Evaluation of Southland WWTF Disposal Alternatives, dated November, 2008 both of which were prepared by AECOM. In addition, there are several hydrogeologic analyses that have been prepared that will also be reviewed including: the Hydrogeologic Characterization Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility, dated July, 2007; Task 4 Technical Memorandum, Nipomo Creek Water Quality Sampling Program, dated December 20, 2007; Task 1 Technical Memorandum, Feasibility Level Exploration Program for New Percolation Pond Sites, dated February 21, 2008; Task 2 Technical Memorandum, Assessment of Potential for Extracting Discharge Water from Beneath the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility, dated February 21, 2008; Supplemental Groundwater Modeling Analysis, dated June 30, 2008 and Hydrogeologic and Geotechnical Assessment of APN 090-311-001, dated July, 2008 all of which were prepared by Fugro West, Inc.

#### **Task 2 – Preparation of Project Description and Notice of Preparation**

Based upon the review of available information within Task 1, a detailed description of the proposed project will be prepared. This description will include discussions of relevant project background, project objectives and their rationale, project location, project characteristics, project timing and required permits and approvals. Once completed, ten (10) hard copies of the Project Description will be provided to the NCSD for review and comment. A final copy of the Project Description which contains all necessary revisions will be forwarded to the District for final approval. This approved Project Description will then be reflected in the required subconsultant analyses (see Task 3 below) as well as in the impact assessments contained within the Administrative Draft EIR (see Task 4 below). Within this task, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) will be prepared to be circulated with the previously-prepared Initial Study. Also included in this task is the provision of all required scoping activities including notification of Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies and interested parties in order to solicit their concerns on the project. Task 9, Project Meeting and Public Hearing Attendance includes the coordination of a Public Scoping Meeting in order to solicit public concerns and comments on the proposed project.

#### **Task 3 - Review of Subconsultant Analyses**

This phase involves conducting of all required field surveys and the preparation of written analyses from the specialized subconsultants. Subconsultant analyses will be prepared for the EIR in the

- B. Project Objectives
- C. Project Location
- D. Project Characteristics
- E. Required Permits and Approvals
- F. Project Timing

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

- A. Existing Site Conditions
- B. Adjacent Land Uses
- C. Cumulative Projects

V. ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- A. Land Use and Planning
- B. Population/Housing
- C. Water
- D. Biological Resources
- E. Aesthetics
- F. Cultural Resources
- G. Geology
- H. Traffic
- I. Noise
- J. Air Quality (including Greenhouse Gas Assessment)

(Additional areas of analysis may be added in response to concerns raised during document preparation or in response to comments received on the Notice of Preparation or the Draft EIR).

VI. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

VII. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

- A. No Project Alternative
- B. Expanded Percolation Facilities at Southland WWTF
- C. Modification of Aquitard at Southland WWTF
- D. Alternative Off-Site Infiltration Locations
  - 1. South of Nipomo Mesa
  - 2. Near Mesa and Eucalyptus Roads
  - 3. Nipomo Refinery Property
- E. Alternative Irrigation Disposal Locations
  - 1. Landscape Irrigation
  - 2. Highway 101 Right-of-Way

(Additional project alternatives may be identified during document preparation or in response to comments received on the Notice of Preparation or the Draft EIR.)

IX. GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

X. ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

XI. REFERENCES

### **Task 5 - Preparation of Draft EIR**

Upon receipt of all comments from the NCSD and other appropriate sources, the Administrative Draft EIR will be revised as necessary. A "printcheck" copy of the Draft EIR will be provided to the District to insure that all comments and required revisions were appropriately incorporated into the document.

Upon authorization by the NCSD, a total of thirty (30) hard copies and fifty (50) CD's of the Draft EIR including Technical Appendices will be provided for distribution within the required 45-day public and agency review period. We will also provide the District with an electronic copy of the Draft EIR in a format acceptable to the District. Included within this task is the preparation of the Notice of Completion (NOC) to accompany the public distribution of the Draft EIR as well as assisting the District in the submittal of the NOC and attachments to the State Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies and other interested parties.

### **Task 6 - Preparation of Administrative Final EIR/ Responses to Comments**

Upon completion of the required public and agency review period, all appropriate comments will be compiled and responses will be prepared by our firm. A total of ten (10) hard copies of the comments received on the Draft EIR will be provided to the District for their initial review and comment. A total of ten (10) hard copies of the Responses to Comments package will be submitted to the District for review and approval. Where required, the technical expertise of the involved subconsultants will be utilized in order to provide the most complete and technically adequate responses possible. Copies of the Administrative Final EIR will be submitted to the District for review and comment.

### **Task 7 - Preparation of Final EIR**

Upon receipt of all comments from the NCSD, we will fully respond to all comments and revise the Final EIR as necessary. A "printcheck" copy of the Final EIR will be provided to the District to insure that all comments and required revisions were appropriately incorporated into the document. Upon approval, we will provide a total of thirty (30) hard copies and thirty (30) CD's of the Final EIR including the Responses to Comments package, any additional Technical Appendices and copies of the actual comments received on the Draft EIR. We will also provide the District with an electronic copy of the Final EIR in a format acceptable to the NCSD. Included within this task is the preparation of the Notice of Determination to be forwarded to the State Office of Planning and Research when the Final EIR is certified and assisting the District in its filing with the State Office of Planning and Research.

### **Task 8 - Preparation of Findings of Fact**

We will prepare Findings of Fact/Statement of Overriding Considerations for the proposed project pursuant to Sections 15091 and 15093 of the State CEQA Guidelines in a format approved by NCSD. These findings will provide the following information: a) background relative to the processing of the proposed project; b) a Statement of Overriding Considerations which lists the public benefits of the project; c) a listing of project impacts which have been reduced to a level of insignificance accompanied by required findings and references to pertinent mitigation measures; d) a similar listing of impacts which have not been reduced to a level of insignificance accompanied by required findings and references to pertinent mitigation measures; e) an overview of growth-inducing impacts of the project; f) discussion of the project alternatives considered in the Final EIR; and g) other required findings pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines and Public Resources Code.

identified. Analysis of project-related growth-inducement shall consider the following elements: 1) removal of any impediments to growth such as the extension of roadways or utilities; 2) the creation of development pressures in surrounding areas, particularly on existing agricultural lands; 3) growth-inducing impacts upon community services and 4) the establishment of any precedent-setting effects upon parcels within the South County/Nipomo Mesa area. The indirect growth-inducement of the proposed project on existing and/or future land use entitlements or development plans in the area will also be discussed in the EIR. Any mitigation measures or project alternatives capable of reducing these growth-inducing impacts will be identified.

The cumulative impacts of the proposed project in relation to other existing or proposed land use entitlements or development plans in the project area will be analyzed in the EIR. These cumulative impact assessments will include, but are not limited to, impacts upon regional air quality, biological resources, traffic and circulation, noise, air quality, cultural resources and other cumulative environmental factors influenced by the project. Assessment of the cumulative impacts associated with the expansion of wastewater treatment capacity to the South County/Nipomo area will assume future development pursuant to either the County of San Luis Obispo General Plan (South County Area Plan) or any other viable land use development scenarios for the South County/Nipomo Mesa area.

The Draft EIR will also present any additional alternatives to the proposed project which are capable of reducing or eliminating any new, significant environmental impacts. Any alternatives to the proposed project that could feasibly attain the basic project objectives will be provided. The analysis of project alternatives will also identify all environmentally superior project alternatives. The analysis of each project alternative will begin with a description of the proposed alternative accompanied, if necessary, by a graphic illustrating the alternative. The impacts associated with each alternative will be identified and discussed. Impacts of each alternative will then be compared to the significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project. Alternatives to the proposed project will also be evaluated in relation to their ability to meet the objectives of the proposed project. The Draft EIR will also identify any alternatives that are considered to be environmentally superior to the proposed project.

### III. PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The firm of Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. is recognized by many governmental agencies and within the business community as an environmental consulting firm which offers the highest level of professional expertise and technical capability. Established in 1983, Wood & Associates is known for its high level of principal involvement. With over sixty years combined experience in the preparation of environmental documents, the expertise of the principals of Wood & Associates can save time and money while providing the highest level of professional environmental consulting services.

Pertinent information on the roles to be assumed by various staff members at Wood & Associates to be involved on this project are discussed below. Copies of their resumes are included with Appendix A of this proposal.

Mr. Douglas L. Wood, Principal and President of Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc., will serve as overall project manager and coordinator for this effort. His duties will include maintaining direct contact and coordination with the Nipomo Community Services District, as Lead Agency, as well as with the various members of the subconsultant team discussed within this proposal. He will also oversee the production of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report and will be involved in the preparation of specific sections of these documents. His involvement will also include, but not be limited to, formulation of required mitigation measures and project alternatives. Mr. Wood will also provide all required representation at project meetings and public hearings throughout the course of this project.

Ms. Pamela Wood, Principal of the firm, will serve as Project Coordinator and will also be involved in document production and review as well as the detailed evaluation of reports received from the various involved subconsultants. We have found that this detailed review insures receipt of a quality product from these sources and maintains a consistency as to the data and conclusions contained in these studies.

Wood & Associates, Inc. is proud of our record of maintaining a consistently high level of principal involvement through all phases of projects for which we are under contract. As a result of this policy, the Lead Agency receives the benefit of their expertise and experience which is reflected in the contents and overall production of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report as well as during representation at project meetings and public hearings.

Ms. Joanna White, Environmental Analyst, will also be involved in the planning analysis, document production and review efforts.

Mr. Joe Malek, Production Coordinator and Graphic Artist, will be responsible for preparation of and revisions to all graphics and illustrations contained within the Draft and Final Environmental Report as well as other phases of document production.

In addition to the staff members of Wood & Associates, Inc. noted above, two specialized subconsultants, the firms of Padre Associates and Mr. Robert Gibson, will be utilized in the areas of biological resources and cultural resources, respectively. Costs for their services are included within the scope of this proposal. Copies of their proposals are included in Appendix B of this proposal.

## IV. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following project schedule depicts the various time frames involved for the tasks delineated in Section II, Scope of Work of this proposal. This schedule assumes approval of this contract by the District on April 8, 2009. These estimated time frames assume no unforeseen project revisions, delays or complications. This schedule also assumes completion of all engineering and hydrogeologic studies currently being conducted by NCSD no later than June 15, 2009. Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. is committed to the adherence of this schedule and the various time frames that are included therein.

### Nipomo Community Services District Southland WTF Upgrade Project Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report Project Schedule

Task	Date
District approval; authorization to proceed	April 8, 2009
1. Research and Analysis	April 20, 2009
2. Preparation of Project Description and Notice of Preparation	April 30, 2009
Receipt of Comments on Project Description from NCSD	May 13, 2009
Circulation of Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (30 days)	May 22, 2009 – June 21, 2009
3. Review of Subconsultant Analyses	June 8, 2009
Completion of engineering/hydrogeologic analysis by NCSD	June 15, 2009
4. Preparation of Administrative Draft EIR	August 15, 2009
Receipt of Comments on Administrative Draft EIR from NCSD	August 31, 2009
5. Preparation of Draft EIR	September 15, 2009
Public Review Period (45 days)	September 25, 2009 – November 16, 2009
6. Preparation of Administrative Final EIR /Responses to Comments	December 15, 2009
Receipt of Comments on Administrative Final EIR from NCSD	January 8, 2010
7. Preparation of Final EIR	January 15, 2010
8. Preparation of Findings of Fact	January 30, 2010
9. Public Hearings	February, 2010

The proposed project schedule provided above would result in provision of an Administrative Draft EIR approximately four months after authorization, a completed Draft EIR four weeks later, provision of an Administrative Final EIR after a subsequent three months (which includes a 45-day public review period) and a completed Final EIR one month thereafter. Public hearings on the proposed project could, within the time frames of this project schedule, commence approximately ten months from contract authorization.

## V. COST DATA

We propose to perform planning services set forth herein in accordance with fixed fee and time and materials billing system based upon the wages spent for all personnel working on the project. Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. will complete the above services for a maximum fee not to exceed \$65,600.00 and \$19,960.00 for the additional outside consultant services (Padre Associates – biological resources and Mr. Robert Gibson – cultural resources) for a total cost of \$85,560.00. These expenses will be billed monthly on a time and materials basis. The direct cost of any additional consultant tasks, subconsultant fees, printing and reproduction charges, mileage, filing fees or other related charges advanced by Wood & Associates, Inc. beyond those discussed herein are in addition to the previously-named figure.

A detailed breakdown of project costs per task by individual staff hours is provided in the attached table titled Cost Breakdown per Staff Member. A summary of all project costs is provided in the attached table titled Cost Summary.



**Nipomo Community Services District Southland WTF Upgrade Project  
Draft and Final EIR Cost Summary**

Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc.	\$65,600.00
Padre Associates (Biological Resources)	\$10,360.00 <sup>(1)</sup>
Robert Gibson (Cultural Resources)	\$ 9,600.00 <sup>(1)</sup>
TOTAL	\$85,560.00

<sup>(1)</sup> These subconsultant proposals assume a total of 82 acres of area devoted to additional water treatment/percolation facilities and approximately five miles of pipeline route (of which 0.5 miles along South Frontage Road was previously surveyed). Any reduction in areas to be surveyed prior to the initiation of this task will result in a proportionate reduction in the survey costs as currently quoted in this proposal.

## VI. RELEVANT PROJECTS

Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. has provided a full range of environmental services to our clients for the past twenty-four years. Members of our staff have been involved in the preparation of over two hundred environmental impact reports throughout the State of California. Mr. Douglas Wood, Principal and President of the firm, possesses over thirty-four years experience in the preparation and processing of environmental documents. His professional background includes experience in both the private and public sectors and has included direct involvement in all phases of development planning, design, and processing. Ms. Pamela Wood, Principal of the firm, possesses over thirty years experience in the preparation and review of environmental documents and other planning studies. Copies of their resumes are included in Appendix A of this proposal.

Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc. possesses extensive experience in the preparation of comprehensive EIR's for large, public works projects with a complexity of significant environmental issues similar to those associated with the proposed project. Throughout these efforts, our firm has demonstrated an ability to find feasible solutions to environmental challenges and to build a consensus with public agencies, private landowners and members of the public.

We have successfully secured environmental approvals, certifications and clearances from local agencies throughout the State of California. Included in these efforts has been involvement in the preparation of specialized biological, archaeological, paleontological, geologic, hydrologic, traffic circulation, fiscal, air quality, and acoustical surveys as well as interface with a variety of local, State and Federal regulatory agencies. Provided below is a list of representative projects which have been completed by our firm. Several of these representative projects noted below underscore our firm's capabilities in a variety of areas that are of particular relevance to the preparation and processing of the proposed NCSO Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility EIR.

- Nipomo Community Services District Waterline Intertie EIR (Lead Agency: Nipomo Community Services District)
- Southland Shop Upgrade Project Expanded Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Lead Agency: Nipomo Community Services District)
- Maria Vista Tract, Water and Sewer Line Extensions Expanded Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declarations (Lead Agency: Nipomo Community Services District)
- Sphere of Influence Update/Municipal Services Review, Nipomo Community Services District EIR (Lead Agency: San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission)
- Los Robles del Mar Supplemental EIR (Lead Agency: San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission)
- Willow Road Extension and Highway 101 Interchange EIR (Lead Agency: County of San Luis Obispo)

Provided below is a detailed description of each of the representative projects listed above.

Our firm was responsible for the preparation of an Initial Study in order to determine whether this project would have a significant impact on the environment.

**Maria Vista Tract, Water and Sewer Line Extensions Expanded Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declarations**

Our firm was retained by the Nipomo Community Services District to prepare separate Expanded Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declarations for the water line and sewer main extensions to the Maria Vista development (Tracts 1802, 1808 and 1856) located on Santa Maria Vista east of Joshua Street and south of Hutton Road in Nipomo. The proposed twelve inch water supply line was proposed to be extended approximately 2.3 miles (12,300 feet) from the western boundary of Tract 1902 along the alignment of Santa Maria Vista, Joshua Street and Orchard Road to a point of connection of existing District waterlines at the intersection of Orchard Road and Southland Street. Two existing wells, known as the Dana Wells #1 and #2 were also activated, i.e. equipped with pumps and power as part of this project. These wells are located southwest of Pomeroy Road adjacent to Mandi Court and Cheyenne Court. The proposed installation of a six-inch sewer force main and lift stations extended approximately 2.5 miles from the Maria Vista development to existing wastewater treatment facilities in Southland Street operated by the Nipomo Community Services District. This sewer main extension ran within the right-of-way of Santa Maria Vista west to Joshua Street and south to Orchard Avenue ultimately connecting to an existing gravity pipeline in Southland Avenue leading to the existing wastewater treatment facility.

Environmental issues included impacts to biological resources, adjacent land uses, erosion and sedimentation and traffic circulation.

Our firm was responsible for preparation of two Initial Studies to determine whether these two projects would have a significant impact on the environment.

**Sphere of Influence Update/Municipal Services Review, Nipomo Community Services District EIR**

Our firm was retained by the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission to assist in the preparation of the environmental documentation associated with the Sphere of Influence/Municipal Services Review of the Nipomo Community Services District conducted by the Local Agency Formation Commission. The Municipal Service Review analyzes the jurisdiction's capability to provide public services to existing and future residents. The Sphere of Influence Update is based upon the Municipal Service Review completed for Nipomo Community Services District by the Local Agency Formation Commission. The SOI update and MSR were prepared to meet the requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. The area studied included areas within and adjacent to the current service area of the Nipomo Community Services District located in South San Luis Obispo County.

Environmental issues discussed in the EIR included long-term water supply, land use and planning, transportation/circulation, population and housing, air quality and utilities and service systems.

Our firm was responsible for assisting in the preparation and review of the Initial Study, Draft EIR and Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR.

## VIII. REFERENCES

Public Sector	Private Sector
<p><b>San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission</b>            County Government Center            1042 Pacific Street, Suite A            San Luis Obispo, CA 93401            David Church, LAFCO Analyst            (805) 788-2096</p>	<p><b>Lockheed Martin Corporation</b>            100 S. Charles Street, Suite 1400            Baltimore, MD 21201            Mr. Ken Philbrick            (410)468-1000</p>
<p><b>Port San Luis Harbor District</b>            P.O. Box 249            Avila Beach, CA 93424            Jay Elder, Retired Harbor Manager            (805) 471-7734</p>	<p><b>Clayson, Mann, Yaeger &amp; Hansen</b>            601 S. Main Street            Corona, CA 92882            Mr. Derrill Yaeger            (951)737-1910</p>
<p><b>County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Planning and Building</b>            County Government Center, Room 310            San Luis Obispo, CA 93408            Mr. John Nall, Principal Environmental Specialist            (805) 781-5027</p>	<p><b>O'Melvany &amp; Myers</b>            400 South Hope Street            Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899            Mr. Thomas F. Muller            (213)699-6510</p>

**SOUTHLAND UPGRADE "PROJECT"**

**DEIR & FEIR QUOTE SHEET**

Date: March 17, 2009

NAME OF FIRM: Douglas Wood & Associates, Inc.

NAME OF PRINCIPAL: Douglas Wood

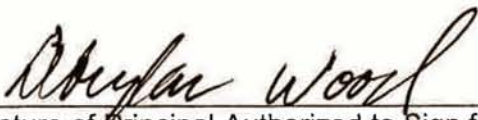
ADDRESS: 1461 Higuera Street, Suite A SanLuis Obispo, CA 93401

PHONE: (805) 544-1680 FAX: (805) 544-3067

E-MAIL: DWAEIR@AOL.COM

NOT TO EXCEED EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR ALL FEES & CHARGES: \$ 85,560.00

(per Section V. Cost Data)



Signature of Principal Authorized to Sign for Firm and Date

*This quote shall be valid for 90 Days from the date of Signature*



**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**

1530 Monterey Street, Suite D  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

805 547 0900

FAX 547 0901

info@rinconconsultants.com

www.rinconconsultants.com

March 17, 2009  
Proposal Number 09-63880

Bruce Buel, General Manager  
Nipomo Community Services District  
148 South Wilson Street  
Post Office Box 326  
Nipomo, CA 93444-00326

**Subject: Proposal to Provide CEQA Review Services for the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project**

Dear Mr. Buel:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal for the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. We recognize the importance of this project and have carefully tailored our team to address the unique characteristics of this project. Joining Rincon to assist with the issue of Cultural Resources is Conejo Archaeological Consultants. Rincon will be the prime contractor and will work closely with the project team to oversee the review of all studies completed to date, coordinate with Nipomo Community Services District and its engineering design team, and serve as primary author of the CEQA document.

To streamline the CEQA process, our approach involves preparation of an Initial Study to narrow the final scope of work to only those issues that require further analysis under CEQA. This approach will allow us to focus the EIR and at the same time substantiate findings for those issues found to be less than significant. Based on our past experience and preliminary review of the project, we believe that all of the impacts associated with the proposed project can be reduced to less than significant, with the possible exceptions of Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Growth-Inducing Effects, which will need to be analyzed in the EIR.

We believe that our team is especially well qualified to assist the District with this project and has the technical expertise needed to prepare a technically sound CEQA document while maintaining the creativity and functionality that Rincon's clients have come to expect. Key features of this proposal include:

- **Principal Level Involvement** – Rincon proposes to utilize three of the firm's principals, including two of the firm's founding principals, in the execution of this project. Each of these principals has over 15 years of professional experience preparing CEQA documents within the Central Coast region;
- **Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC)** – Rincon employs proven quality assurance techniques that include Principal level review of all technical analysis as well as internal peer review. We have successfully employed these techniques on many large projects through California;
- **Experienced Project Manager** – Rincon's Project Manager has direct work experience preparing EIR documents in the local area. In addition he has extensive experience with water resources projects including preparation of an EIR/EIS for the North Sonoma Agricultural Reuse Project (NSCARP), a large regional recycled water project to store and distribute reclaimed water for irrigation of agricultural land;



- **Specialized Technical Expertise** – Rincon has extensive in-house expertise in the technical areas that will be required for this project. In addition, our team includes Conejo Archaeological Consultants, who provides specialized experience in the areas of cultural resources;
- **Extensive CEQA Experience in San Luis Obispo County and Northern Santa Barbara County** – As illustrated further in this proposal, Rincon has extensive experience preparing CEQA documentation for projects throughout the San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara County region, including the Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project EIR; and
- **Interagency Permitting** – With offices located in San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Carlsbad California, Rincon has extensive coastal planning and permitting experience. In addition, we regularly conduct interagency coordination and permitting for large regional projects, including multi-year contracts with Southern California Gas Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company for environmental and permitting services.

It is the combination of highly qualified staff, our local presence, in-depth environmental planning and permitting experience, recent experience on similar projects, and our ability to manage large environmental programs with a broad stakeholder base that makes the Rincon Consultants Team uniquely suited to this project.

We appreciate your consideration of Rincon Consultants for this assignment and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss further this proposal. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

John Rickenbach, AICP  
Principal

Duane Vander Pluym, D.Env.  
Principal

## INTRODUCTION

Rincon Consultants is pleased to submit this proposal in response to the *Request for Quotes for CEQA Reviews Services – Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project (RFP)*. This proposal is to provide environmental services for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrade Project. Rincon Consultants, Inc. will be the lead contractor, supported by Conejo Archaeological Consultants to assist with the issue of cultural resources.

This proposal outlines the Rincon Team's broad range of planning, engineering, and scientific capabilities and how we will specifically apply our expertise to this project. Our team offers a high degree of flexibility and considerable depth of experience that will allow us to respond effectively to issues that may arise over the course of this project. To complete successfully this project, a number of specific work tasks must be completed. Those tasks are detailed below under Approach/Methodology.

An EIR represents the combined efforts of multiple professionals. Technical expertise is required to provide the evidentiary basis for the impact analysis. Communication skills are crucial to the preparation of a document that addresses the requirements of CEQA and can also be easily understood by the decision makers, stakeholders and the local community. Planning and engineering skills are essential to respond to project and client objectives and to solve problems quickly. Finally, direct client involvement is essential to keep the team apprised of the project history and to help convey and balance client objectives and priorities.


Because of this complex interplay, it is essential that the District, its engineering consultants, and EIR consultant work as an integrated team, so that issues and challenges are quickly identified and efficiently responded to.

Based on our review of the proposed project, we understand that the project will result in improved effluent water quality and sustained effluent flow into Nipomo Creek. While some elements of the project would be expected to result in a net environmental benefit, the project still requires a comprehensive

review under CEQA. As part of the CEQA process, it will be important to address all of the potential effects of the project and be mindful of community concerns, as well as to examine the environmental effects of a reasonable range of alternatives to the project.

To accomplish these objectives, we propose to closely examine and revise the draft Initial Study to substantiate its findings and to focus the EIR on the key issues that could result in significant impacts. Consistent with the State CEQA Guidelines, this step will help to streamline the CEQA process, minimize costs, and expedite the overall project schedule.

Based on our review of the Initial Study and experience on other similar projects we believe that some of the issues identified in the Initial Study as potentially significant such as Land Use, Traffic, and Noise can be found to be less than significant with and eliminated from detailed discussion in the EIR. We also believe that the Initial Study discussion of potential growth-inducing impacts is overly speculative and can more effectively be framed in the context of existing land use plans and policies. For example, the suggestion that the project would result in future general plan amendments is highly speculative, since the location, timing and extent of future general plan amendments cannot be known at this time. It will be important to identify whether or not the project is intended to serve planned growth already identified within locally adopted local plans and policies or if the new capacity would become available to accommodate yet unplanned growth in the District's service area. In addition, some of the issues identified as potentially significant in the draft Initial Study, such as Noise, can likely be effectively mitigated through standard requirements included in the County's regulatory framework. Our proposed scope of work reflects this streamlined pragmatic approach.

Rincon has reviewed the District's Standard Agreement and accepts the terms and conditions contained therein. 

### Understanding of Project

In response to Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements and future wastewater treatment capacity needs, the Nipomo CSD is proposing the Southland WWTF Upgrade Project to improve the quality of the discharge and the efficiency





of the operation and expand plant capacity. Continued operation of the WWTF that results in continued discharge in a manner that contributes to significant increase in mineral constituent concentrations in groundwater and/or Nipomo Creek is not acceptable (Waste Discharge Requirements for NCSW Southland Wastewater Works, Order No. 97-75, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 10/29/1997). Recent investigations show that treated effluent is "perching" on an aquitard which is encountered between 60 and 140 feet below the surface. Some of this treated effluent contributes to flows in Nipomo Creek.

At flow rates above 0.57 MGD, the size of the "perched mound" would increase. An increased mound would likely result in increased flows to Nipomo Creek as well as possible destabilization of the percolation basins. Nipomo Creek is classified as an impaired water body under the State Water Quality Control Board for fecal coliform and may soon be subject to a fecal bacteria loading allocation under a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process.



WWTF improvements include replacement of the sewer collection main in South Frontage Road from Division Street to the headworks, construction of the influent pump station, construction of the screening and grit removal works, reconfiguration of the current treatment ponds, installation of the "Biolac" wave oxidation treatment system, construction of the external clarifiers, re-configuration of the sludge storage ponds, linking of the sludge drying beds, and all related plumbing and instrumentation.

The project involves additional collection facilities, upgraded treatment facilities, and future expanded disposal/reuse capabilities.

- Collection Facilities. Proposed collection facilities involve replacement of the existing 12-inch sewer trunk main that runs along South Frontage Road from Division Street to the Southland WWTF with a 21-inch pipeline.
- Treatment Facilities. Proposed treatment facilities improvements to the Southland WWTF include upgrading the influent pump station, provision of headworks improvements, reconstruction of two of the existing treatment ponds, and utilization of the two remaining treatment ponds for storage, decanting and disposal. These treatment facilities *may* be powered by a 500-kilowatt solar power generating station. The facilities will increase the treatment capacity of the Southland WWTF from its current capacity of 0.9 million gallons per day to 1.4 million gallons per day.
- Disposal Method Alternatives. The January 2009 Preliminary Screening Evaluation of Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Disposal Alternatives evaluated the following disposal options:
  - Alternative 0 – Infiltration at Existing WWTF
  - Alternative 1 – Infiltration at Pasquini Property (24 acres)
  - Alternative 2 – Infiltration South of Nipomo Mesa
  - Alternative 3 – Infiltration near Mesa and Eucalyptus Roads
  - Alternative 4 – Infiltration at Kaminaka Property (24 acres)
  - Alternative 5 – Irrigate Landscape with Recycled Water
  - Alternative 6 – Modify Aquitard and Continue Infiltration at Southland
  - Alternative 7 – Irrigate Highway 101 Right-of-Way with Recycled Water
  - Alternative 8 – Irrigate Agricultural Lands near the WWTF with Recycled Water
  - Alternative 9 – Infiltration at Refinery Property

Of these alternatives, Alternatives 1, 4, 5, and 8 were recommended for further analysis.

There are several important elements that are needed to ensure successful execution of the EIR work program for the project, including:



- *Effective and on-going coordination and communication with the District and project team members to facilitate clear exchange of ideas and information and enable rapid completion of project milestones;*
- *Review and utilization of previous studies to the extent possible to reduce cost and preparation time for the EIR;*
- *Preparation of a revised Initial Study that more defensibly resolves many of the possible environmental issues, while clearly focusing on those that need to be addressed in the EIR;*
- *Development of a detailed project description to facilitate accurate and thorough environmental review pursuant to CEQA;*
- *Thorough and well-documented analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives including discussion of the criteria and findings for dismissal of alternatives that have been eliminated from further consideration;*
- *Development of mitigation measures that help to guide project design in a way that meets agency concerns;*
- *Thorough CEQA findings; and*
- *Engagement of the greater Nipomo community at key junctures to ensure an open and community engaging planning and environmental review process.*

## SCOPE OF SERVICES AND TIMELINE

### Task 1: Project Initiation



Subtask 1.1 Kickoff Meeting. Within one week of authorization to proceed, Rincon will organize a kickoff meeting with District staff and key members of the consultant team. This

meeting will serve as a forum to:

- *Review and confirm study objectives*
- *Establish an operational protocol*
- *Confirm project schedule and deliverable due dates*
- *Discuss the existing project documentation*
- *Identify procedures for review of project documentation*

The meeting will allow the District and the consultant team an opportunity to discuss the existing project documentation and establish procedures for conducting a thorough documentation review, including identification of procedures for cataloging reference materials.

Subtask 1.2 Documentation Review. Following project kickoff, the consultant team will conduct a thorough review of all project documentation. The consultant team will commit to a weeklong period of full-time review of readily available project documentation.

Subtask 1.3. Initial Study/Notice of Preparation/Scoping Meeting. Rincon will prepare a preliminary project description, an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation (NOP), for distribution to the San Luis Obispo County Clerk, State Clearinghouse, regional and local public agencies, and other interested parties requesting such notification. The NOP will contain all of the required elements identified in the State CEQA Guidelines and will be accompanied by the Initial Study.

We understand that a draft Initial Study has already been prepared. Our intent is to refine that document to allow the EIR to focus on the key issues that could result in significant impacts. If the EIR scoping process identifies additional issues, we would be prepared to adjust our approach accordingly. This process will provide the required technical documentation under CEQA, minimize costs, and expedite the overall project schedule.

For example, the Initial Study identified certain issues as potentially significant (such as Land Use, Traffic, and Noise), based on the concept that the proposed project could be growth-inducing, and thus could lead to future general plan amendments that accommodate such growth. Based on our review, it appears that many of these potential impacts would be speculative, since the location, timing and extent of future general plan amendments cannot be known, and that such changes would undergo separate CEQA review through the County. In addition, some of the issues identified as potentially significant in the draft Initial Study, such as Noise, can likely be mitigated through standard requirements included in the County's regulatory framework. Our proposed scope of work reflects this approach, which is cost-effective, flexible, and defensible.



Based on our preliminary review of the currently available information, and with the assumptions noted below, Rincon anticipates that the following impacts would be less than significant and will likely not require further analysis in the EIR. To reach this conclusion for some issues, we recommend that the project include mitigative features (such as shielded lighting and vegetative screening, in the case of aesthetics). For other issues, we would reference standard regulatory requirements that would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. Air quality is a good example of this issue, since short-term construction is likely to be the major source of emissions, and APCD has standard requirements to address this issue. With this approach, we anticipate the following issues could likely be found to be less than significant through a revised Initial Study:

- *Aesthetics*
- *Air Quality*
- *Agricultural Resources*
- *Hazards & Hazardous Materials*
- *Land Use*
- *Mineral Resources*
- *Population and Housing*
- *Public Services*
- *Recreation*
- *Traffic and Circulation*
- *Utilities and Service Systems*

The Initial Study will also evaluate the project's potential to contribute to Global Climate Change (GCC). This issue has been recognized by the State of California as of increasing importance within the context of CEQA analysis. AB 32 sets forth a framework for addressing GCC in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Although no thresholds have been set to determine the significance of potential impacts, it is recognized that this is appropriately characterized as a cumulative impact, and is likely to be required in EIRs in the near future, based on further direction as set forth in SB 97, which ties the climate change issue to CEQA.

In June 2008, OPR issued interim guidance for the determination of significance thresholds, generally leaving it to local agencies to determine an appropriate specific approach. In January 2009, OPR released draft amendments to CEQA that provide a likely direction to the nature of how GCC will need to be

addressed in EIRs, pending input from the public and agencies. Final direction under CEQA is anticipated by July 2009. In general, the key anticipated direction would be based on draft CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4, which discusses thresholds and the approach to the analysis of impacts.

During the NOP review and comment period, Rincon and the District will schedule a public scoping meeting, since the project could be considered to be of regional significance. Rincon will present an overview of the Project and facilitate input from the public on the scope of the EIR. Following close of the NOP comment period, Rincon will compile all response letters and meeting minutes and prepare a memorandum that summarizes the input and its implications on the approved work scope and EIR process.

Rincon's technical scope of the issues to be studied in the EIR is based on the assumptions that the issues described above would be less than significant. If additional issues, not included herein, are identified during the scoping process, these items would be added to the work program for a fee to be negotiated.

**Output:** *Rincon will deliver five copies of the Initial Study Checklist and NOP for review. Following receipt of District comments on the Initial Study/NOP, Rincon will produce 30 copies of the Initial Study Checklist and NOP and will distribute. Rincon will also deliver a scoping meeting attendance log and meeting minutes and will deliver ten copies of a report to the District and the Board containing a summary of the environmental issues raised during the scoping period and recommendations about the CEQA-appropriate response to each issue.*

Rincon will work with the District in finalizing the scope of work for completion of the Draft EIR.



## Task 2: EIR Project Description

Working closely with the District and the project engineering team, Rincon will prepare a detailed project description for review by the District. This review is critical, since the project description will form the basis for environmental evaluation under CEQA. The project description will detail the project proposal through textual, tabular, and graphic presentation, as necessary, to facilitate a thorough understanding of the proposed project. It will also indicate the timeline and phasing of the project. As required by CEQA, the project description will include:

- *A description of the project site and surroundings*
- *Description of anticipated physical changes, including new or upgraded facilities*
- *Description of proposed operational characteristics*
- *Description of mitigative project features intended to address potential impacts, consistent with the discussion in the revised Initial Study to ensure such impacts would be less than significant*
- *A discussion of project objectives*
- *A listing of required discretionary actions*

The project description will carefully document the operational requirements, including treatment processes and discharge reuse options. Detail on construction requirements and operational parameters will be included in the project description to facilitate detailed analysis of potential short-term construction-related impacts and long-term operations-related impacts.

The project would be carried out two phases. The first phase involves upgrade of the WWTF and the second phase involves future reuse or offsite disposal. At this point, the NCSO has selected the preferred project for upgrade of the WWTF and has identified four potential reuse disposal options.

As such, the project description will detail the selected WWTF upgrade as the proposed project for the project-specific impact analysis. It will also identify the four disposal/reuse options as a future phase project for the program-level environmental analysis. It is understood that the disposal/reuse options may be subject to subsequent CEQA review.

**Phase 1: Upgrade Component.** For the project upgrade component, the project description will identify how the WWTF upgrade component will result in improved water quality (i.e., reduced nitrogen levels to 10 mg/L) of the effluent while maintaining an effluent flow rate that does not exceed 0.57 MGD. It will identify all facilities that will be constructed, treatment process, and construction requirements and schedule.

**Phase 2: Reuse/Disposal Options.** The project description will describe the following four future disposal/reuse options:

- **Alternative 1** – Infiltration at Pasquini Property (24 acres)
- **Alternative 4** – Infiltration at Kaminaka Property (24 acres)
- **Alternative 5** – Irrigate Landscape with Recycled Water
- **Alternative 8** – Irrigate Agricultural Lands near the WWTF with Recycled Water

The project description would identify that construction would occur at Alternative 1 and 4 sites (Pasquini and Kaminaka properties), but not at Alternative sites 5 and 8. It will also identify that for Alternative 1, a 4,500 LF 16-inch diameter pipeline would need to be constructed to convey treated effluent to the 24-acre site; for Alternative 4, a 24,000 LF 16-inch diameter pipeline would need to be constructed to convey treated effluent to the 24-acre site; for Alternative 5, a 36,500 LF, 16-inch pipeline; and for Alternative 8, a 5,000 LF, 16-inch pipeline.



## Task 3: Administrative Draft EIR

The EIR for the proposed project will be prepared in accordance with the *State CEQA Guidelines* and thresholds accepted by the District. Rincon will adhere



to the same standard of adequacy provided for EIRs in the *Guidelines*, which specifically state that:

*An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information that enables them to make a decision that intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible.*

**Subtask 3.1 Executive Summary.** The EIR will contain a summary of the proposed project and associated environmental consequences. This information will be presented in tabular format to simplify review by decision-makers and the public. This section will identify:

- *Each potential environmental impact;*
- *The level of significance of each impact;*
- *Mitigation measures required; and*
- *Residual impacts after mitigation.*

The summary will include an assessment of the alternatives reviewed and their associated impacts. The summary will note the environmentally superior alternative of the alternatives discussed in the EIR and the rationale for its selection as such. The summary will also differentiate between project-specific impacts and mitigation measures of the WWTF upgrade project component and the programmatic impacts and mitigation measures of the disposal/reuse program component.

**Subtask 3.2. Introduction and Environmental Setting.** The EIR will provide introductory sections (required by CEQA) that lay the groundwork for and summarize the substantive analysis to follow. The introduction will describe the purpose and legal authority of the study. It will also provide a discussion of lead, responsible and trustee agencies. The environmental setting will provide a general description of the existing geographic character of the Nipomo area and the immediate site vicinity. This section will also contain the list of pending and approved projects within the project area that will be considered in the cumulative analysis.

**Subtask 3.3. Environmental Analysis.** Each environmental issue addressed in the EIR will incorporate four sub-topics:

- *Setting*
- *Impact analysis (significance thresholds, methodology, project impacts, policy consistency, cumulative impacts) – these will be categorized as project-specific impacts and program-level impacts*
- *Mitigation measures – these will be categorized as project-specific mitigation and program-level mitigation*
- *Level of significance after mitigation*

The setting will be based on several existing data sources, including the Waterline Intertie EIR, South County Area Plan, technical reports prepared for the District, and other planning documents and recent EIRs. When appropriate, this information will be summarized and incorporated by reference. Where possible, impacts will be quantified. If existing data does not allow definitive quantification, reasonable assumptions will be used to forecast qualitatively potential impacts. Cumulative impacts will also be discussed within the analysis.

Mitigation measures may include a range of design measures and programs as proposed by District staff and the consultant team. Mitigation measures will be presented in wording that can be directly applied to conditions of approval and will include monitoring requirements.

**Subtask 3.4. Alternatives.** The purpose of this section will be to promote informed decision-making and to evaluate a reasonable range of project alternatives. Our proposal assumes that up to four (4) alternatives will be evaluated. These could include, but not be limited to:

1. *No Project (No WWTF Upgrade);*
2. *Alternative Treatment Process Project;*
3. *Expanded Percolation Area Project; and*
4. *Mitigated Project (implements mitigation measures associated with the proposed project)*

It is recognized that additional variants of these alternatives may be considered, including different project redesigns, or different project locations. The



precise alternatives to be examined will be developed in conjunction with County staff during the preparation of the Administrative Draft EIR.

Per the *CEQA Guidelines*, the alternatives will generally not be addressed to the same level of detail as the proposed project; however, where impacts have been identified as significant for the proposed project, the alternatives will identify applicable mitigation requirements for the alternatives, so that a meaningful comparison can be made, and if necessary, CEQA Findings in support of the alternatives can be prepared. The analysis will identify whether the alternatives would result in impacts that are less than, similar to, or greater than the proposed project, the level of significance, and mitigation requirements. A matrix that depicts the magnitude of impacts associated with the alternatives when compared to the proposed project will be provided. At the conclusion of the alternatives analysis, the environmentally superior alternative will be identified.

CEQA requires a reasonable range of alternatives that minimize potential significant environmental effects. This section will evaluate alternatives pursuant to CEQA, which require examination of alternatives that avoid and/or minimize potential significant environmental impacts. This section will also address alternatives that were eliminated from further consideration (per the screening analysis).

The results of this analysis will be presented graphically in matrix form. We will direct the evaluation to provide a comparison among alternatives in order to determine the environmentally superior alternative, as required in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6.

Subtask 3.5. Growth Inducement and Other CEQA-Required Sections. The EIR will include all other sections required by the *State CEQA Guidelines*, including growth-inducing impacts. Growth inducement potential is typically related to two factors: (1) the extension of urban infrastructure (sewer lines, water lines, and roadways) into largely undeveloped areas, and (2) the development of urban uses in largely undeveloped areas. Projects that are already anticipated under existing General Plans and within urban areas are typically not considered growth-inducing. The degree to which the project is intended to address growth already anticipated in the South County Area Plan, when considered with other

constraints such as the RWQCB's discharge requirements, will form the basis of determining whether the project can be considered growth-inducing.

This section will evaluate whether the project represents a reduction or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas of Nipomo. It is understood that no changes to the WWTF Order will be made as part of the plant upgrade, such that the plant will continue to operate under the same permitted capacity. However, the EIR is required to examine the potential effects of the project at full buildout. This, plus potential reuse of recycled water under the future disposal/reuse phase may offset existing water use, thereby freeing up such water for others uses, which could result in additional growth. Any future growth beyond that allowed in the South County Area Plan would require a General Plan Amendment and a zone change as well as other subsequent approvals, but it is highly speculative to know the timing or location of such possible changes, and speculative analysis is discouraged under CEQA.

Thus, the growth-inducement analysis will be general and programmatic in nature. Programmatic mitigation, if appropriate, would likely direct environmental review for future development that may not currently be anticipated in the South County Area Plan to include performance-based mitigation measures tied to the availability of resources and infrastructure to reduce potentially significant impacts from such development.

Specifically this growth-inducement analysis will include:

- *Discussion of existing land use and development patterns in the District's service area*
- *Review of past similar projects to evaluate growth inducing or precedent setting implications of such projects*
- *Identification of performance-based programmatic mitigation measures needed to reduce or eliminate growth impacts associated with the project, if any*

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Rincon recommends submitting electronic copies of key sections of the preliminary Administrative Draft EIR in advance of printing hard copies, to allow District staff to



confirm the general direction of the analysis. If necessary, Rincon staff will meet with District staff to discuss general concerns to allow us to make necessary adjustments. Following the meeting, Rincon will submit an Administrative Draft EIR for formal staff review and approval.

**Output:** *Rincon will deliver 10 hard copies of the Administrative Draft EIR.*

#### Task 4: Publication of Draft EIR



Rincon will review the District's comments on the Administrative Draft EIR and will make necessary edits and revisions. This task also involves the production, editorial work and communication processes anticipated to publish the Draft EIR for circulation, public and agency review, and comment. We assume that Rincon will prepare the Notice of Completion (NOC) and assist the District by filing the Draft EIR and NOC with the State Office of Planning and Research, County Clerk Recorder's Office, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties. Rincon will coordinate with the District in developing an approved Draft EIR distribution list to ensure that the document is provided to all necessary parties.

**Output:** *Rincon will deliver 15 copies of the Executive Summary, 15 bound hard copies, 65 CDs containing the document in digital form, and one reproducible master of the Draft EIR. A set of graphics will also be provided.*

#### Task 5: Final EIR

The final formal stages of the EIR and project review process involve responding to comments, public hearings, and final publication tasks. At this point, all of the discretionary permit applications and the EIR will be brought together for final public governmental scrutiny leading to decisions regarding approval. Through this process, final changes and policy decisions concerning the project are made. Our work effort for this task is delineated as follows.

Subtask 5.1. Responses to Comments/ Administrative Final EIR. Within two weeks of receipt of all public comments on the Draft EIR, Rincon will submit copies of the proposed responses to comments. Following the District's review and comment, Rincon will submit ten copies of the Administrative Final EIR. We will discuss and modify, as necessary, information in the EIR that requires such modification. We have budgeted 40 hours of professional staff time and 4 hours of support time for the preparation of responses to comments. The Administrative Final EIR will include both the responses to comments and changes to the Draft EIR necessary as a result of these responses.

Subtask 5.2. Publication of the Final EIR. Subsequent to certification of the EIR, Rincon will deliver 30 copies of the Final EIR, and 30 digital copies of the document. Upon certification of the Final EIR and project approval, Rincon will handle filing of the Notice of Determination (NOD) with the San Luis Obispo County Clerk's Office and State Clearinghouse.

Subtask 5.3. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). When certifying an EIR, the Lead Agency must adopt an MMRP for those mitigation measures included in the EIR or made a condition of approval to avoid significant effects of the project. This task would include the preparation of an MMRP in accordance with CEQA requirements. Essentially, this plan will take the form of a detailed table that will compile all of the mitigation measures developed within the EIR, as well as information necessary to monitor compliance with each measure. The program will include:

- *Suggested wording as a condition of approval;*
- *Identification of persons/agencies responsible for monitoring compliance with each condition;*
- *Timing and frequency of monitoring; and*
- *Criteria to be used to determine compliance with conditions.*

Optional Subtask 5.4. CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations. We understand the District's counsel may prepare the CEQA Findings for the project. However, as an optional task, Rincon can prepare CEQA Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (if necessary) consistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15091 and 15093. Our proposed



budget includes up to 40 hours of professional time for this optional task. This document would be submitted in District approved hard copy and electronic formats for reproduction and distribution by the District.

**Output:** *Ten copies of the Administrative Final EIR (including draft responses to comments and MMRP), 30 bound hardcopies of the Final EIR, 30 CDs containing the digital files, and one reproducible master of the Final EIR.*

### Task 6: Public Hearings and Meetings



Rincon's Project Manager or Principal-in-Charge will attend up to two public hearings. Attendance will include oral presentations to the hearing body, supplemented with graphic

presentations, if necessary. These hearings can be scheduled and selected at the client's discretion. We will attend additional formal hearings on a time and materials basis, in accordance with our standard fees. Our budget also assumes attendance at up to four meetings with District staff, including the kickoff meeting and three additional meetings during the EIR process.

**Output:** *Attendance at two public hearings, and up to three working meetings with District staff, in addition to the Kickoff Meeting in Subtask 1.1.*

### Task 7: Prepare Public Notices and Newspaper Ads

Rincon will prepare the required notices for the project, including the NOP, NOC, and Notice of Determination (NOD). Our proposal assumes that the District will mail and distribute these documents at the appropriate times within the environmental review process, but Rincon can provide this service as an optional task. In addition, this work scope assumes that Rincon will prepare up to two newspaper ads noticing of the proposed project and environmental process.

## TECHNICAL APPROACH to ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Our proposed technical approach is to review, verify, and utilize information to the maximum extent practical, augmenting available data with original research as appropriate. Our analysis will include an assessment of each issue identified below and development of technically sound mitigation measures.

Based on our understanding of the project and assumptions identified herein the following issues will be addressed in the EIR:

- *Biological Resources*
- *Cultural Resources*
- *Geology and Soils*
- *Hydrology/Water Quality*
- *Growth-Inducing Impacts*

Each of these issues will be examined for the project individually as well as in the context of the potential for cumulative impacts. The following describes our approach to the analysis of these key environmental issues. Growth-Inducing Impacts are already discussed in detail under Subtask 3.5.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project facilities occur generally in areas of existing agricultural fields, open grassland vegetation, developed areas, and an existing wastewater treatment facility. Vegetation communities in the areas include annual grasslands, eucalyptus, ruderal, and nonnative ornamental. Special status plant and wildlife species have the potential to occur in the project area. The project could impact large eucalyptus trees that represent potential habitat for the Monarch Butterfly or nesting raptors. Alternative effluent disposal sites may be located in areas with vernal pools that provide habitat for California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), a federally listed threatened species.

The biological resources assessment will include a literature search supplemented by field reconnaissance of the project site.

Rincon's biologists will prepare the biological resource investigation, which will involve a review of studies prepared within the Nipomo area, including studies for





the Waterline Intertie EIR and subsequent permitting efforts and literature on the ecology of Nipomo Creek. Rincon biologists will conduct a CNDDDB search of the project area, including the Pasquini and Kaminaka properties.

WWTF upgrade construction activities in areas that have not been previously disturbed would cause ground disturbance, leading to loss of vegetation, wildlife habitat, and potential impacts to special-status species. In addition, indirect impacts associated with noise, dust, soil erosion, and human presence may occur.

Construction of the disposal facilities at either the Pasquini or Kaminaka properties and pipelines from the WWTF to these site could result in permanent impacts to rare plant areas, vernal pools, and wildlife. No construction would occur at the Alternative 5 and 8



sites. For Alternative 1, it is assumed that a 4,500 LF 16-inch diameter pipeline would need to be constructed to convey treated effluent to the 24-acre site. For Alternative 4, a 24,000 LF 16-inch diameter pipeline would need to be constructed to convey treated effluent to the 24-acre site. For Alternative 5, a 36,500 LF, 16-inch pipeline, and for Alternative 8, a 5,000 LF, 16-inch pipeline.

The biological assessment for the EIR will examine the biological resources of the study area and will address at a detailed level the effects from removal of vegetation and loss of wildlife habitat due to the plant upgrade component. The assessment of impacts to biological resources that could result from the construction of distribution pipelines to the four alternative sites (1, 4, 5, and 8) and from construction of the disposal facilities at sites 1 and 4 will be evaluated at a more general level. This evaluation will be based on existing literature sources, aerial photograph reviews, and our field reconnaissance conducted for the project area.

Rincon will also discuss the regional ecological implications of the project area in terms of wildlife movement pathways and habitat linkages. Cumulative impacts will be addressed by using the South County Area Plan and applicable specific plans to discuss anticipated future growth in the area. The impact analysis will be based on locally adopted thresholds as appropriate.

Possible project impacts include the loss of special-status plants and animals and their habitat, the loss of special-status plant communities, and alterations to waters of the United States and State of California, which may include wetland and riparian habitat. If it is determined that additional special studies need to be performed prior to on-site grading for the project-component, the parameters, including timing for these studies, will be identified. Rincon does not recommend focused biological surveys of the program-component areas.



The analysis will also include a discussion regarding potential impacts to Nipomo Creek. The analysis of project-specific impacts to Nipomo Creek will be based on the understanding that the WWTF upgrade will result in an improvement in effluent water quality (nitrogen concentration reduced to 10 mg/L) and that the effluent flow rate to Nipomo Creek will remain unchanged.

Impacts to Nipomo Creek will be based on the understanding that if the wastewater flow increases from 0.6 MGD to 1.13 MGD (2008 to 2017), 60% of the total treated effluent flow could be extracted for infiltration at the Pasquini or Kaminaka properties or for irrigation of landscapes or agricultural lands near the WWTF, and annual pumping rates rise to 0.67 MGD over the same time frame, this extraction would reduce the flow to Nipomo Creek to half (0.05 MGD) of the WWTF's current estimated contribution (0.10 MGD). Rincon will discuss in the EIR whether this change in flow will result in significant impacts to biological resources that have become adapted to existing artificial flow conditions.

Mitigation measures for demolition work and grading will be included to ensure that such activities do not disturb sensitive habitat or cause sedimentation or



contaminated runoff. Rincon will develop measures for potential impacts to sensitive biological resources within the project site. Guidelines for adjusting pipeline alignments or locations of disposal percolation ponds will be recommended. Permit requirements, as well as other measures will be discussed, if appropriate. Our scope presumes that no focused plant and wildlife surveys will be conducted to determine the presence/absence of special-status species. We will generally map the locations within the study area that could include special-status species, which could become the focus of future surveys as needed. Our scope of work does not include wetland delineations, but we can provide a cost estimate for this task at the



request of the District.

Our work scope will consist of the following specific tasks:

- Coordination with state and federal agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as well as conservation organizations as appropriate;
- Conduct reconnaissance-level biological field surveys including the preparation of a site vegetation/habitat map. The EIR will identify the general locations of special-status plant communities and habitat areas.
- Analysis of potential direct and indirect impacts to common and special-status biological resources identified on and immediately off-site resulting from the plant upgrade and future disposal/reuse options (indirect impacts may include changes in hydrological and water quality conditions of Nipomo Creek);
- Coordination with the Hydrology and Water Quality Section to evaluate the effects of site development, increased erosion and sedimentation, disposal of water at either the Pasquini or Kaminaka properties, and changes in flow to Nipomo Creek, and affects to aquatic species; and
- Identification of feasible mitigation measures to minimize impacts to biological resources on

and off-site resulting from project construction and future reuse/disposal.

- As optional task, Rincon can conduct protocol surveys for the California Red-Legged Frog. Current protocol requires two daytime and four nighttime surveys within the breeding season, and one daytime and one nighttime survey in the non-breeding season). These protocol surveys are included in this proposal as an optional task.

## CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Conejo Archaeological Consultants (Conejo) will conduct the analysis of archaeological and historical cultural resources, while Rincon's in-house paleontologist, Julie Broughton, PhD, will conduct the analysis of paleontological resources.

Conejo's cultural resources investigation would be completed in two phases. The first phase would consist of cultural resources background research and Native American consultation. The second phase would entail a field survey of the project site and disposal area sites. Under this scope of work the following tasks shall be completed:

- Conduct a records search at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC), housed in the Anthropology Department at UC Santa Barbara.
- Review all (CCIC) survey and site record reports within the project site.
- Conduct a Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) sacred lands file search.
- Conduct written consultation with Native American representatives identified by the NAHC.
- Review Federal, state and local historic landmark listings for the project area.
- Conduct a field survey of the project facility and two approximately 24-acre disposal sites. Inventory, photograph and map any potentially significant archaeological resources observed. (No artifacts will be collected.)
- Prepare a survey report that includes the record search results, field methodology, survey findings, Native American comments, and an assessment of impacts to cultural resources, if any, from project development



with appropriate management recommendations.

This proposal assumes that the CCIC records search charge will not be greater than \$200. This proposal does not include an evaluation of the project's built environment (i.e. evaluation of potential historic structures located within or adjacent to the project site). The other alternative infiltration sites and any potential pipeline routes will be included in the overall records search, but will not be subject to Phase I survey under this scope of work. The cost for addressing cultural resources assumes that no more than 50 acres total shall require field survey. A separate estimated cost breakdown for the survey of the approximately 13.5 miles of pipeline alignment for Alternative 1, 4, 5, and 8 is included as an optional task.

**Paleontological Research.** Rincon's paleontologist Julie Broughton, PhD (candidate) will examine the issue of paleontological resources. The analysis will review available setting information, including affected geologic formations and soil types, and qualitatively determine the likelihood of encountering resources within the study area as a result of construction. Mitigation measures will be proposed as appropriate.

We will review Conejo's survey report to develop the cultural resources discussion in the EIR, and integrate this with the in-house analysis of paleontological resources. Mitigation measures will be developed to avoid or treat significant archaeological resources that cannot be feasibly avoided by the proposed project. Residual project impacts remaining after mitigation measure implementation will be described. Cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed project and similar past, present, and probable future projects in the vicinity also will be described.

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Walt Hamann, PG, CEG, CHG, REA II with Rincon Consultants will oversee preparation of the geology and soils section. The section will be based primarily on existing literature sources to determine the potential for geologic hazards that may affect the proposed project. This review will also include a field reconnaissance to observe onsite geologic characteristics. We will coordinate with Fugro in review of their reports listed under Hydrology and

Water Quality to identify existing geologic hazards or other problems experienced in the study area.

The Santa Maria fault and Oceano Fault traverse the project area. Infiltration of treated effluent at the Kaminaka and the Pasquini property could potentially result in unstable geologic conditions. The Pasquini property borders a relatively steep bluff to the south. Based on preliminary investigations, the Fugro study concluded that construction of percolation basins at the Pasquini site would likely not adversely affect the slope stability, provided that groundwater elevations remain below the base of the bluff and the proposed percolation ponds are adequately set back from the top of the bluff. The report further states that to fully evaluate the feasibility of the proposed project at this site, it is critical to obtain a better definition of the hydrogeological character beneath the site to ensure that introduced water percolates more or less vertically through the unsaturated zone and merges with groundwater at a depth below the bluff base and does not daylight along the bluff face. We understand that additional geologic research on this issue is underway by Fugro.

The impact assessment will include a graphic representation of potential hazard areas and will identify specific mitigation requirements for each hazard identified. This section will include the following:

- Discussion of existing geologic conditions (e.g., seismic capabilities, soils, subsurface structure, landforms, etc.);
- Identification of potential geologic hazards (e.g., liquefaction, shrink-swell, erosion, etc.) and seismic characteristics in the study area;
- Mapping of geologic hazards from background analysis data sources;
- Discussion of the local geologic formations that may include naturally occurring asbestos. Note that this information will be used in the air quality analysis;
- Evaluation of the effect of geologic hazards on proposed project (e.g., liquefaction, erosion, seismic, etc.);
- Examination of short and long term impacts and cumulative impacts that could occur from onsite landform modification; including unstable geologic conditions from infiltration of treated effluent at either the Kaminaka and Pasquini properties;



- Measures to mitigate specific geologic hazards; and
- If necessary, recommend additional geologic and soils analysis (including any additional fault delineation or seismic analysis) to ensure adequate identification and mitigation of geologic hazards.

## HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Walt Hamann, PG, CEG, CHG, REA II with Rincon Consultants will oversee completion of this section, which will include an evaluation of hydrology and water quality impacts from upgrade of the WWTF and from the disposal/reuse alternatives. We will use available mapping to identify drainage courses and watersheds of the study area. This task will also involve review of this information, discussion with District, County, and agency staff, and conduct of field reconnaissance to identify areas with potential drainage and erosion concerns. We will also review the hydrogeologic reports prepared by Fugro, including the following:

- July 17, 2007 – Hydrogeologic Characterization, Southland WWTP, Nipomo, California. Key findings include:
  - A dual aquifer exists beneath the WWTF percolation basins.
  - The discharged treated effluent may be flowing to Nipomo Creek.
  - The shallow aquifer appears to consist of treated WWTF effluent.
  - The water quality in the deeper aquifer is unknown.
  - Insufficient information is available to determine if the treated effluent is percolating into the deeper aquifer.
- December 20, 2007 – Nipomo Creek Water Quality Sampling Program Phase 2. Results of a preliminary sampling effort indicate that treated effluent from Southland WWTF disposal basins is likely contributing to flows in Nipomo Creek.
- January 29, 2008 – Assessment of the Potential for Extracting Discharge Water from Beneath the Southland WWTP. This preliminary aquifer testing and modeling work suggests that if the wastewater flow increases from 0.6 MGD to 1.13 MGD (2008 to 2017) and the existing percolation ponds are used,

then a network of five wells could extract up to 60% of the total treated effluent flow. If annual pumping rates start at 0.51 MGD and rise to 0.67 MGD over the same time frame, this extraction would reduce the flow to Nipomo Creek to half (0.05 MGD) of the WWTF's current estimated contribution (0.10 MGD).

- January 22, 2008 – Feasibility Level Exploration Program for New Percolation Basin Sites. All of the sites investigated (three sites: north and south of Mesa Road, and west of Osage) appear suitable for percolation. Of the three areas investigated in this study, the area south of Mesa appears most suitable because of the minimal relief at the site.
- July 30, 2008 – Supplemental Groundwater Modeling Analysis. Additional modeling was used to estimate that up to 0.57 MGD could be disposed at the existing site without increasing the size of the perched treated effluent mound.
- July 30, 2008 – Hydrogeologic and Geotechnical Assessment of APN 090-311-001. Results of this preliminary assessment indicate that the Pasquini property may be able to percolate up to 1.2 MGD in the 35-acre northerly third of the 192 acre parcel. Additional investigation into actual percolation rates and impacts to groundwater levels, as well as additional modeling to determine the fate and transport of percolated treated effluent, would be needed to determine whether the site is suitable for this use.

The hydrology and water quality assessment would be subdivided into short-term and long-term impacts and will address both the WWTF upgrade component and the disposal/reuse options for the project. The section will examine whether additional runoff from project-related construction will adversely impact existing stormwater control systems. The section will also address potential water quality impacts related to project operations. At this point, local groundwater conditions at the potential offsite disposal and reuse locations may be unknown. We understand that additional research is being conducted by Fugro on this issue. We will review these hydrogeologic analyses and will identify potential impacts and mitigation measures

Specific tasks associated with addressing impacts to hydrology and water quality include the following:



- Review existing drainage studies and available mapping and identify drainage courses and watersheds of the study area;
- Identify areas that potentially could be affected by drainage, erosion, or sedimentation impacts;
- Identify drainage infrastructure in the project area;
- Evaluate the potential for surface water impacts, including Nipomo Creek, and groundwater contamination to result from the following potential sources of pollutant discharge:
  - Surface water runoff
  - Topographical alteration from grading activities
  - Changes in operations pursuant to the plant upgrade
  - Infiltration at the Pasquini and Kaminaka properties
- Evaluate the potential changes to the hydrology of Nipomo Creek based on changes to the inflow volume into Nipomo Creek (in coordination with preparation of the Biological Resources Section);
- Identify feasible mitigation measures to minimize or avoid potential impacts related to water quality; and,
- If necessary, recommend additional analysis ensure adequate identification and mitigation of hydrology and water quality impacts.

The analysis in this section will be closely coordinated with the District, AECOM, and Fugro as well with the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## SCHEDULE

Adherence to scheduling requirements is a critical aspect of sound project management. The following is a suggested schedule for completion of the EIR:

Task	Date
Project kick-off meeting	April 2009
Initial Study and NOP Completion	May 2009
Public scoping meeting	May 2009
Scoping Issues summary	June 2009
Complete Administrative Draft EIR	August 2009

Task	Date
Publish Draft EIR, Notice of Completion	September 2009
45-Day Public Review Period for DEIR	Sept- Nov. 2009
Respond to Comments on Draft EIR	December 2009
Prepare Administrative Final EIR	December 2009
Prepare MMRP and CEQA Findings	December 2009
Completion of Final EIR	January 2010
Public Hearing(s)	January 2010
Certification, NOD, Filing with State	January 2010

We are prepared to adhere to this schedule. Please note that we are accustomed to preparing EIRs on large, controversial projects within ambitious timeframes. We have met similar schedules on many other EIRs.

## QUALIFICATIONS



**Rincon Consultants, Inc.** is a multi-disciplinary environmental sciences, planning, and engineering consulting firm with offices in San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Carlsbad, California.

Rincon was founded in 1994 and is currently staffed by over 57 professional planners, environmental scientists, biologists, restoration ecologists, planners, and geologists. In addition to our broad range of services and staff qualifications, one of our key strengths is our involvement in projects from "inception -to-implementation" which spans from preplanning activities (alternative analyses, biological and hazardous site assessments, hazardous remediation) to project analysis (CEQA/NEPA compliance, regulatory permitting), through project implementation (hazards remediation, construction monitoring) to post construction activities (habitat restoration, mitigation). As a result, we have a full understanding of the demands of large-scale projects and the interaction between different environmental issues and the directives of regulatory agencies responsible for them. We understand the nuances of the proposed project within its regulatory environment and can effectively direct the efforts of our project team to provide the necessary oversight.



Our key areas of expertise include the following:

### Environmental Planning

- CEQA Compliance: EIRs, Initial Studies, Categorical Exemptions, Mitigation Monitoring Programs
- NEPA Compliance: EISs, Environmental Assessments, Categorical Exclusions
- Planning Services: General Plans and Specific Plans, Neighborhood Planning and Community Involvement Programs, Contract Planning Services
- Redevelopment: Blight Studies, Environmental Analysis
- Alternative Transportation: Pedestrian/Bicycle Planning
- Corridor Studies: Rails to Trails, Roadway Widening and Utility Alignments
- Mitigation and Construction Monitoring
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Noise Studies and Air Quality Analysis
- Grant Application Assistance

### Biology Resources and Regulatory Compliance

- Watershed Management and Planning
- Baseline Biological Resources Inventories and Vegetation Mapping
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant and Wildlife Species Surveys
- Wetland Delineations
- Complete Regulatory Compliance and Mitigation Planning
- Drainage/Wetlands Permits: USACE Sections 404 and 10, RWQCB Section 401, CDFG 1601
- Coastal Development and Grading Permits
- ESA Section 7 Consultations and Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plans
- CESA Permits and Natural Community Conservation Plan
- Wetland, Riparian, and Upland Habitat Revegetation and Restoration Planning
- Construction and Mitigation Monitoring

### Environmental Site Assessment and Remediation

- Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments: Urban, Rural, Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Vacant, and Agricultural

- Hazardous Waste Characterization and Remediation: Soil and Groundwater Assessment, Groundwater Monitoring, Remedial Action Plans and Closure Reports
- Underground Storage Tank Removal and Investigation
- Site Remediation: Urban Redevelopment Remediation and Monitoring, In-situ Remediation System Design, Construction, Monitoring and Maintenance
- Health Risk Assessments: Preliminary Endangerment Assessments and Risk Based Corrective Action Modeling
- Geological and Seismic Studies
- Expert Witness/Litigation Support

### GIS and Graphics Resources

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Mapping and Data Management
- Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and Design
- Graphic Design
- 3-D Photosimulation
- Newsletters/Brochures
- Website Development

**Conejo Archaeological Consultants (Conejo)** is a sole proprietor business that was established in 1997. Conejo specializes in archaeology and cultural resources management. Conejo strives to ensure client satisfaction through skilled consultation and the timely delivery of high-quality documentation that satisfies regulatory requirements. Conejo specializes in the following:

- Environmental Impact Consultation (CEQA/NEPA);
  - Phase 1 Archaeological Field Surveys & Reports;
  - Construction Monitoring;
  - Coordination with Local, State, and Federal Regulatory Agencies;
  - Native American Consultation and Coordination;
  - Cultural Resources Overviews; and
  - Archival Research.
- Conejo's principal focus of archaeological investigation has been in the historic territory of the Chumash and Tongva/Gabrielino Native Americans in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.



California Fish and Game Code. His responsibilities at Rincon include plant and animal special-status species research and field surveys, biological and other natural resources mapping, quantitative biological resources analyses, habitat evaluations, general biological surveys, regulatory compliance, and the preparation of biological reports, mitigation and monitoring plans, and delineation of waters of the U.S. and state reports. Mr. Bogg's billing rate for this project is \$125.

**Julie Broughton, Ph.D. (Candidate)**, serves as a Senior Paleontologist and Biological Scientist with Rincon Consultants, Inc. Her role in this project would be to conduct the paleontological evaluation for the project. Julie holds a Bachelor's of Science (BS) in Ecology and Evolution from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where her studies focused on the identification, ecology, evolution and interaction of plants and animals. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Geology through the Earth Science Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara with an emphasis in distribution and climatic constraints of Tertiary fossil plants of California. Field work relating to fossil collection included monitoring of road improvement construction, collection, preparation and curation of all specimens associated with her research site. During her graduate studies Julie worked at UCSB to develop the laboratory curriculum for lower and upper division paleontology courses. Julie's responsibilities include monitoring, research and field surveys for paleontological and biological evaluation and the preparation of biological reports for compliance with both NEPA and CEQA. Ms. Broughton's billing rate for this project is \$105.

**Craig Huff** serves as the Geographic Information System (GIS) and Graphics Analyst for the San Luis Obispo office. Craig holds a Bachelor's of Science (BS) in Natural Resource Planning and a Minor in GIS from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Mr. Huff has a background in Visual Simulations, working with organizations such as NASA, Boeing, and Planning Departments across the country to develop high fidelity maps and fly-throughs tailored to suit specific program requirements. He has worked extensively with a wide range of GIS and graphics applications including ArcGIS, Pathfinder, ERDAS Imagine, MultiSpec, Global Mapper and the Adobe product suite. From GIS analysis and orthorectification to multispectral image classification and photo manipulation, he has a broad array of imaging

knowledge to contribute at Rincon Consultants. Mr. Huff's billing rate for this project is \$75.

**Mary Maki** of Conejo Archaeological Consultants has over 18 years professional archaeological experience, including seven years as the Principal Investigator for two large environmental consulting firms in southern California. Mary is a certified member of the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) and opened her own consulting firm in 1997. Her principal focus of archaeological investigation in California has been in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Los Angeles Counties in historic Chumash territory. However, she has also worked on projects in Kern, Kings, Riverside, Stanislaus, and Sacramento Counties. She is experienced working with state (CEQA), federal (NEPA & NHPA/Section 106), and Caltrans cultural resource regulations, and has prepared numerous studies pursuant to state and federal statutes pertaining to the protection of historic properties.

She has directed over 300 Phase I surveys throughout southern and central California. She has also overseen several Extended Phase I subsurface testing programs and Phase II excavation/ data recovery projects in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, and Kings Counties. As Principal Investigator her duties associated with Phase I surveys, Extended Phase I subsurface testing and Phase II excavation/data recovery projects include, but are not limited to: preparation of proposals; logistical planning and set up of field operations; determination of field methodology; supervision of field crews; field work; site mapping; laboratory analysis; conducting records, literature, and historic research; coordination with members of the local Native American community; coordination with appropriate agency officials, including the State Historic Preservation Officer; preparation of project reports; and preparation of Environmental Impact Report's and Environmental Impact Statement's cultural resources sections. She most recently completed successful Phase II excavations on a prehistoric village site in Los Osos for the County of San Luis Obispo and at a prehistoric village site in Saticoy for the City of San Buenaventura.



## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

The Rincon Team has prepared numerous EIRs for projects similar to the proposed WWTF project. Some of our team's representative experience is highlighted on the following pages.

### Santa Maria WWTP Expansion EIR

*City of Santa Maria*

Rincon Consultants prepared an EIR for the City of Santa Maria's Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project. The project involved the annexation of 252 acres to be used for treated wastewater percolation and groundwater recharge ponds, pipelines, service roads, a Police Impound Yard, a Humane Society Animal Shelter, and a City Corporation Yard. The intent of the project was to expand the Wastewater Treatment Plant to accommodate the existing community and expected growth, provide adequate sewage treatment capabilities, provide functionally efficient and cost-effective wastewater treatment to serve the community, consolidate public and community facilities in one location to improve services, and link two non-contiguous portions of the City of Santa Maria. Rincon analyzed the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, biological resources, geology/soils, and air quality.

### Fillmore Water Treatment Facility Construction Monitoring

*City of Fillmore*

Rincon Consultants is currently conducting environmental consulting and monitoring services for the City of Fillmore for the proposed Fillmore Water Recycling Plant. This project involves several tasks, each of which is essential to completion of the facility's construction. These tasks include: a Biological Resources Management Plan (BRMP), Pre-monitoring Program Development, Pre-Construction Biological Clearance Surveys, Construction Monitoring, Restoration Plan Development, Restoration Plan Implementation, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting.

### Hetrick Road Water Main Upgrade Project IS/MND

*Nipomo Community Services District (experience of Project Manager)*

Kris Vardas served as project manager for Hetrick Road Water Main Upgrade Project IS/MND. The project involved the replacement of 900 linear feet of 8-inch water main with a new 12-inch water main within the right-of-way of Hetrick Road, from Willow Road south to Live Oak Ridge Road.

### Sewer Alignment Corridor - Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments

*City of Oxnard, Engineering Services*

The City of Oxnard contracted Rincon Consultants to conduct a phased environmental assessment along an 18,000-foot alignment, prior to construction of a sewer extension. The assessment was performed to evaluate the likelihood of encountering soil and ground water contaminants during construction of the sewer pipeline. Potential areas of concern identified in the Phase I ESA included current and former agricultural and oilfield operations. The Phase II sampling included collection of soil and groundwater samples using a Geoprobe sampling system and analysis of samples for possible contaminants. The report included recommendations for handling contaminated soil and ground water during the construction phase of the project.

### Charnock Well Field Restoration Project IS/MND

*City of Santa Monica*



Rincon Consultants is preparing an IS/MND for the Charnock Well Field Restoration Project. This project involves implementation of a water treatment system and other improvements would help to remove groundwater contamination from the Charnock groundwater sub-basin and restore this resource as a water supply for the City of Santa Monica. As part of the project upgrades, improvements will be required at two existing City-operated water service facilities; the Charnock well field site and the Santa Monica Water





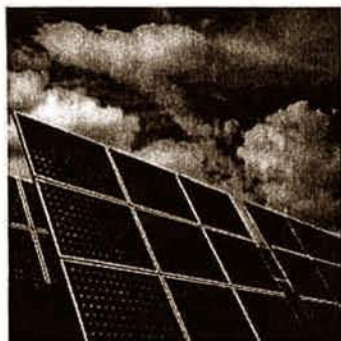
Treatment Plant (SMWTP). These are located in the western portion of Los Angeles County, in the City of Los Angeles.

**PXP Produced Water Reclamation Project SEIR**  
*County of San Luis Obispo*

Kris Vardas assisted the County of San Luis Obispo in project management and preparing a staff report and related information for the PXP Produced Water Reclamation Facility SEIR. Mr. Vardas also presented the staff report to the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The project involves construction and operation of a water reclamation facility to store, cool, and treat produced water for beneficial reuse or discharge into Pismo Creek. Key issues included air quality, biological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology/water quality. The project was approved by the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission, was appealed to the County Board of Supervisors, and subsequently approved by the Board.

**Campus Photo-Voltaic Projects IS/MNDs**  
*California State University*

Rincon Consultants completed four Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declarations (IS/MNDs) to implement photovoltaic solar energy projects for campuses in the California State University system. The systems ranged from 135 kilowatts to 526 kilowatts and were each constructed in an attempt to match the campus settings aesthetically. The photovoltaic panels were installed as parking lot canopies on surface lots, atop parking structures, and rooftop installations atop academic buildings. The



California Department of General Services Solar Power Purchase Program, which was borne of a partnership between the State of California Department of General Services and the California

projects implemented the CSU energy conservation policies by increasing the amount of renewable energy purchased. The panels are components of CSU's participation in the State of

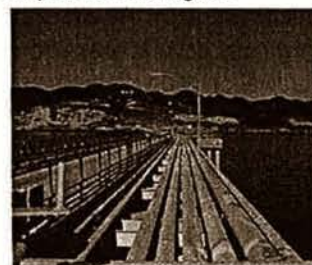
Power Authority. At the State level, this program encourages State agencies to purchase renewable energy from public electricity providers. CEQA documents and processing were conducted at the Fullerton, Dominguez Hills, San Luis Obispo, and Chico campuses during 2005 and 2006. Rincon has managed the CEQA processes at each campus, bringing us into contact with diverse California communities and local town issues. Issues that were identified as potentially significant were: aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, and land use planning conformity.

**Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat EIR**  
*City of San Buenaventura*

Rincon prepared an EIR for the proposed Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat project, which involved a plan for the restoration of an 1,800 foot stretch of beach and relocation of an erosion-damaged shorefront bike path about 65 feet inland. The managed shoreline retreat plan was the result of a collaborative effort among the City of Ventura, 31st Agricultural District, California Coastal Commission, and local interest groups to find an acceptable approach to addressing shoreline erosion problems at Surfers Point. The EIR was an "alternatives style" document that examined a range of possible options for the design of the project. Key environmental concerns included impacts to coastal geologic processes, marine and terrestrial biological resources, and coastal access and recreation.

**Avila Pier Marine Research Facility IS/MND**  
*California State University San Luis Obispo/Unocal Corporation*

Rincon prepared an IS/MND for the proposed reuse of the Avila Beach Unocal Oil Pier. This project involves a regional collaboration of several California State University (CSU) campuses with CSU San Luis Obispo developing plans to apply the latest techniques in marine instrumentation, computer modeling, 3D visualization, and the Internet to assess the long-term effects of natural (e.g., El Niño, and La Niña) and unnatural (e.g., human-induced habitat destruction, pollution,



and pathogens) perturbations on marine and estuarine environments.

The unique nature of the pier will allow direct student and faculty access to the coastal environment, including a protected intertidal habitat at the pier's base, the opportunity for deepwater sampling and monitoring at the pier's end, and the ability to launch and receive vessels for more extensive ocean investigations. Undergraduate and graduate students will be able to conduct interdisciplinary research projects with their faculty mentors in many areas of study, including marine science, oceanography, marine ecology, meteorology, environmental biotechnology, bioremediation, molecular biology, biochemistry, and computer and statistical modeling. Students and faculty members from the CSU system as well as area community colleges will have access to the educational opportunities available at the pier. The pier will not be available for public access.

#### **Avila Beach Permit Assistance**

*Unocal Corporation*

Rincon conducted agency consultations and preparing permit applications for a number of projects relating to Unocal's decommissioning of their operations in Avila Beach. Rincon consulted with the California Coastal Commission and prepared Coastal Development Permit applications, the DFG, Corps and Coast Guard for Nationwide Permit compliance for sample collection projects, and the Port San Luis Harbor District and Cal Poly for the Unocal Pier Reuse Project.

#### **Replacement of the Ocean Pier for Moss Landing Marine Laboratories IS/MND**

*Trustees of California State University*

Rincon prepare an IS/MND for the replacement of a damaged 480-foot-long wooden pier with the construction of a new 500-foot-long concrete pier. The primary function of the new facility is a marine research pier to support the research of Moss Landing Marine Lab (MLML) and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI). As a research platform, other users and groups have access and use of this facility in coordination and with permission of MLML.

#### **Bolsa Chica Pipeline Removal Project, Permitting, Monitoring, and Interagency Compliance**

*California State Lands Commission*

Rincon Consultants conducted biological surveys, jurisdictional drainage and wetland permit compliance, agency negotiations, and CEQA compliance for the relocation of natural gas pipeline 1228 in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Specific tasks included surveys for special-status species (Belding's Savannah sparrow, snowy plover, rare plants); preparation of USACE Section 404 permit, RWQCB Section 401 Certification, CDFG Section 1600 et seq Streambed Alteration Agreement, and California Coastal Commission (CCC) Coastal Development Permit application; preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration under CEQA, preconstruction surveys, construction monitoring, and mitigation monitoring. Due to the high visibility of this project, close coordination with multiple agencies over the duration of the project was required. Agencies involved in this project included: California State Lands Commission, CCC, USACE, CDFG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Ana District RWQCB, Orange County, Southern California Gas Company, and AERA Energy. Rincon successfully negotiated with agency representatives in a controversial and sensitive resources area to finalize mitigation strategies, which includes alternative methods to avoid impacts to biological and water resources via BMP's, monitoring, and habitat restoration. Following acquisition of all of the required permits, Rincon completed the environmental construction monitoring and reporting requirements throughout the construction period.

#### **San Buenaventura State Beach Facilities Development Plan and IS/MND**

*California Department of Parks and Recreation*

Rincon has worked as the environmental planning team members in the development of a Facilities Development Plan for a State Beach facility in Ventura, California. The park unit is an active day use facility, with ocean beaches, sand dune habitat, extensive picnic and day use grounds, and a linear multi-purpose trail facility. The Facility Development Plan addresses a range of park planning issues, including a changing user-group base and a need to better integrate a regional facility with the adjacent neighborhood. Rincon prepared key components of a dune restoration mitigation program, which includes limiting fencing, interpretive signage, and redirected pedestrian trails



from the day use area to the beach. Following plan development, Rincon prepared and processed an IS/MND for the proposed Master Plan.

**Promenade Stairs and Seawall Restoration Project IS/MND**

*City of San Buenaventura*

Rincon completed an IS/MND for the proposed improvements to the City of San Buenaventura Beach Promenade and Seawall project. The improvement program was designed to address damage and deterioration of the structure that had occurred since its initial construction in 1970. Key features of the program included replacement of deteriorated concrete, extension of the toe wall to prevent undermining of the structure, rehabilitation of the existing revetment to restore its ability to provide storm protection, lateral stability and foundation support, and relocation of damage to beach access stairs. Key issues addressed in the MND included intertidal and subtidal biological resources, geological hazards, construction effects, and water resources.

**Del Norte Pipeline Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

*United Water Conservation District*

Rincon completed an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Del Norte Pipeline project in the Oxnard area of Ventura County. The proposed Del Norte Lateral Pipeline project involved the construction of about 4,500 lineal feet of 18 inch diameter pipeline to connect United Water Conservation District's Main Supply Line with the Del Norte Mutual Water Company's existing reservoir. The line would be constructed within a 10-15 foot easement on private property immediately south of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118). The line would extend from Rose Avenue to the reservoir, which is just east of the intersection of Clubhouse Drive and SR 118. The purpose of the project is to provide diverted surface flows from the Freeman Diversion to offset a portion of existing groundwater extractions. The water will flow by gravity from the Main Supply Line (at Rose Avenue) to the reservoir.

**Saticoy Groundwater Storage Management Project IS/MND**

*United Water Conservation District*

Rincon prepared and processed an IS/MND for a ground water storage project in the Saticoy area of Ventura County. This project involved development of up to six new groundwater extraction wells in the Upper Aquifer in order to produce an average of 5,900 acre feet per year (AF/Y). Initially, the project involved construction of four new wells with construction activities phased over a 15-month period. An additional two wells were planned in order to ensure that the extraction objectives (i.e., average production of 5,900 AF/Y) were met and to provide greater management flexibility within the conjunctive use system. This new supply would be used to displace an equivalent amount of water currently being extracted from the Lower Aquifer portion of the groundwater basin, which was determined to be in a state of overdraft. The actual operation of the new well field was designed to be flexible so that flows may be utilized within any of UWCD's existing conjunctive-use systems. The key environmental issue included the effect of the project on the Santa Clara River located immediately west of the project.

**Santa Maria Solid Waste Site EIR**

*City of Santa Maria*

Rincon Consultants is currently preparing an EIR for the Santa Maria Solid Waste Site (SWS) project. This includes preparing a Solid Waste Facilities Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements, APCD permitting, biological permitting, and a Caltrans Highway Encroachment Permit. The proposed landfill would include the following: a modern, lined landfill on a 395-acre site with 80 to 100 years of capacity; a composting facility/area; support facilities, and environmental controls. Although the SWS facility is proposed to be located within an unincorporated portion of Santa Barbara County, the City has created a Special District for the facility. Accordingly, the EIR analysis is evaluating project impacts relative to the City's environmental thresholds, standards, and policies.



**Santa Maria Regional Landfill Site Facility Permit  
Second Supplemental EIR**

*City of Santa Maria*

Rincon completed a Second Supplemental EIR for the Santa Maria Regional Landfill Site Facility Permit Project, which involved moving existing facilities to accommodate waste disposal in the lined landfill future area, increasing the height of the active landfill area (with hydrocarbon-impacted soils), and implementing waste diversion operations. In addition, the project included an extension of landfill operating hours, modification of the post-closure use of the active landfill area, addition or modification of a second landfill entrance gate, implementation of a new or relocated scale house, the use of biosolids and non-hazardous impacted soils as alternative daily cover (ADC), the storage of construction equipment and materials on the landfill site, a new litter control fence, and the addition of a soil screening operation. Key issues that were analyzed in the EIR include: geology, water resources, air quality, land use, safety, traffic, biology, noise, visual resources, and public service.

**RESULTS OF RECENT PROJECTS**

The Request for Quotes asked for information regarding the results of recent projects, to assess the consultant's performance. The following are representative of recent projects either managed by our proposed Project Manager, or similar in nature to the proposed project. It should be noted that Rincon operates as a collaborative team, and all of our projects are the result of strong project management and internal interdisciplinary coordination, as well as principal-level oversight and quality control.

We also invite you to contact any of our references for additional input to help you evaluate our qualifications.

**Scotts Valley Town Center Specific Plan EIR.**

*City of Scotts Valley*

Kris Vardas served as project manager for completion of an EIR for the Scotts Valley Town Center Specific Plan. The Scotts Valley Town Center Specific Plan is designed to guide mixed-use development that will become the focal point of the City. Key issues included traffic and circulation, water supply, and potential loss of groundwater recharge. This EIR was completed on time

and under budget, even following completion of an optional task of preparing CEQA findings.

Contact: Susan Westman

Interim Community Development Director  
City of Scotts Valley  
(831) 440-5636  
[swestmand@scottsvalley.org](mailto:swestmand@scottsvalley.org)

**Chevron Estero Marine Terminal Source Removal  
EIR, San Luis Obispo County**

*County of San Luis Obispo*

Rincon prepared an EIR addressing the removal of hydrocarbon contaminated soil at the Chevron/Estero Marine Terminal, immediately north of the City of Morro Bay. The purpose of the project is to improve ground water quality by removing separate-phase petroleum hydrocarbons from three designated plume areas at the facility. The proposed project implements the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (RWQCB), and is intended to comply with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2002-0002. Specifically, the project involves excavation and on-site treatment of soil petroleum contaminated hydrocarbons, along with site preparation to accomplish the project objectives. Due to the project's location, immediately adjacent to Toro Creek, installation of a sheetpile wall is needed to protect sensitive biological resources. Key issues being examined in the EIR include biological and cultural resources, noise, traffic, and air quality.

Contact: James Caruso

Senior Planner  
County San Luis Obispo  
(805) 781-5702  
[jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us)

**North Sonoma County Agricultural Reuse Project**

*Sonoma County Water Agency (while under previous employment)*

Kris Vardas served as project manager for preparation of a Draft EIR/EIS for the North Sonoma Agricultural Reuse Project. This project involves the construction and operation of 20 reservoirs, over 110 miles of pipeline, and 15 pump stations to store and distribute 7,500 acre-feet of recycled water from three wastewater treatment plants to irrigate 21,500 acres of agricultural



land within Sonoma County. The Draft EIR/EIS was delivered on time and within budget.

Contact: David Cuneo  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
(707) 547-1935  
David.Cuneo@scwa.ca.gov

### Plains Exploration and Production Phase IV Development Plan EIR

*County of San Luis Obispo (while under previous  
employment)*

Kris Vardas served as project manager for the preparation of an EIR for the Plains Exploration and Production (PXP) Phase IV Development Plan, which involved expansion of an existing oil field in Price Canyon. The project involved construction of 125 oil wells and increasing oil production from approximately 1,800 to 5,000 BOPD. Issues included aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, risk of upset, paleontological resources, and hydrogeology/water quality. The project was approved by the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission, was appealed to the County Board of Supervisors, and subsequently approved by the Board.

Contact: John Nall  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
County of San Luis Obispo  
(805) 781-5027  
[jnall@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jnall@co.slo.ca.us)

## REFERENCES

Rincon Consultants is proud of the reputation we have gained over these past fourteen years. Attached to our proposal is a copy of a letter of reference from Sempra Energy Utilities for whom we have worked for the past 6 years on large-scale utility projects. The following statement is an excerpt from that letter:

*"Because of their exceptional performance which is documented through SCG's "report card" system (Rincon has an A+ rating), Rincon has quickly become the preferred firm on a large scale, very complex project involving an innovative approach to long-term endangered species and wetlands*

*compliance program. In the utility business, projects sprout overnight and Rincon has always been there to meet the demands of last minute requests with demanding schedules."...Shannon Turek, Senior Environmental Specialist, 2008*

Below is a list of references for various projects that Rincon has completed in the Central Coast area.

<b>Gary Kaiser</b> Supervising Planner County of Santa Barbara (805) 934-6250 <a href="mailto:gkaiser@co.santa-barbara.ca.us">gkaiser@co.santa-barbara.ca.us</a>	<b>Lucille Breese</b> City Planner City of Lompoc (805) 875-8273 <a href="mailto:l_breese@ci.lompoc.ca.us">l_breese@ci.lompoc.ca.us</a>
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<b>Marc Bierdzinski</b> Planning Director City of Buellton (805) 688-7474 <a href="mailto:marcb@cityofbuellton.com">marcb@cityofbuellton.com</a>	<b>Ellen Carroll</b> Environmental Coordinator County of San Luis Obispo (805) 781-5028 <a href="mailto:ecarroll@co.slo.ca.us">ecarroll@co.slo.ca.us</a>
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<b>Bill Shipsey</b> Planner III City of Santa Maria (805) 925-0951 <a href="mailto:brsmith@ci.santa-maria.ca.us">brsmith@ci.santa-maria.ca.us</a>	<b>Rob Strong</b> Comm. Dev. Director City of Arroyo Grande (805) 473-5420 <a href="mailto:rstrong@arroyogrande.org">rstrong@arroyogrande.org</a>
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## INSURANCE COVERAGE

Rincon Consultants maintains Workman's Compensation Insurance in accordance with Section 3700 of the Labor Code. Our insurer is the State Compensation Fund. Rincon maintains general liability, professional liability, and automobile liability. We offer this benefit to our clients because of the range of environmental investigations the firm performs, including soil and groundwater assessment and remediation. Rincon's current Insurance Certificates are included as an appendix to this proposal.

## COST SUMMARY

Rincon will prepare the EIR, in accordance with the scope of services and outlined in this proposal, for a cost not-to-exceed \$86,577. Table 1 provides a breakdown of costs by task and staff level. The not-to-exceed cost includes preparation of the Administrative Draft and Draft EIRs, responses to comments on the Draft EIR, and the Administrative Final and Final EIRs. We have budgeted 40 hours of professional time to respond to comments on



the Draft EIR. While we believe that is reasonable given the nature of this project, the actual amount of time required for this task cannot be accurately determined until all of the comments are received. Therefore, we reserve the right to renegotiate this task once the level of effort is better known.

Rincon attendance at up to four meetings with District staff and two public hearings is also included in the estimated budget. The timing for the public hearings is at the discretion of the District. Cost for attendance at additional meetings and hearings will be based on the labor rates in our attached Standard Fee Schedule.

The proposed scope of services and associated costs are fully negotiable to meet the needs of the District. Additional work not included within our proposed work program, will be completed only upon written District authorization in accordance with our Standard Fee Schedule (included in the Appendix to our proposal).

This offer for professional services will remain in effect for a period of 60 days from the date of this proposal. During this period, questions regarding our proposed scope of services may be directed to Duane Vander Pluym or Michael Gialketsis, both Principals with the firm.



Proposal to Provide  
CEQA Review Services for the Southland WWTF Upgrade Project

**Table 1.**  
**Nipomo Community Services District**  
**CEQA Review Services for the Southland WWTF**  
**Cost Estimate**

3/17/2009

Tasks	Cost	Hours	Rincon Consultants						
			Sr. Prncp	Principal	Senior/PM	Sr. Anlyst	Analyst	Graphics	Clerical
			\$175/hour	\$145/hour	\$125/hour	\$105/hour	\$85/hour	\$75/hour	\$55/hour
<i>1. Project Initiation</i>									
1.1 Kickoff Meeting	\$1,190	10		4	4				2
1.2 Documentation Review	\$1,580	16			2	7	7		
1.3 Revised Initial Study/NOP/Scoping Meeting	\$8,760	88		2	16	30	32	8	
<i>2. EIR Project Description</i>	\$3,850	38		2	6	20		8	2
<i>3. Administrative Draft EIR</i>									
3.1 Executive Summary	\$2,260	24		2	4		16		2
3.2 Introduction and Environmental Setting	\$1,080	12			2		8	2	
3.3 Environmental Impact Analysis									
<i>a. Biological Resources</i>	\$7,130	74	4		6	16	40	8	
<i>b. Cultural/Paleontological Resources (Rincon labor only)</i>	\$2,820	28			2	18	8		
<i>c. Geology and Soils</i>	\$3,540	36	4		4		24	4	
<i>d. Hydrology and Water Quality</i>	\$3,540	36	4		4		24	4	
3.4 Alternatives (4)	\$5,845	59	1	4	12	4	32	6	
3.5 Growth Inducement and other CEQA-required Sections	\$3,080	32		2	6		24		
<i>4. Publication of Draft EIR</i>	\$6,120	68		2	16		16	30	4
<i>5. Final EIR</i>									
5.1 Responses to Comments/Administrative FEIR	\$4,260	44		4	4	12	20		4
5.2 Publication of the Final EIR	\$2,640	32		2	2		16	4	8
5.3 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program	\$2,205	23		2	4		16		1
5.4 CEQA Findings (optional task; see below)									
<i>6. Public Hearings (2); Staff Meetings (3, in addition to Kickoff Mtg)</i>	\$4,240	32		12	20				
<i>7. Prepare Notices (NOP, NOC, NOD) and Newspaper Ads</i>	\$1,890	22		2	2		12		6
<i>Project Management</i>	\$7,640	56	12	16	24	0	0		4
<b>Subtotal Labor:</b>	<b>\$73,670</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>33</b>

Additional Costs	
<b>Subconsultants:</b>	
Conejo Archaeological Consultants	\$4,615
<b>Printing:</b>	
ADEIR (10 copies @ \$70/copy)	\$700
DEIR (15 copies of Exec Summ @ \$10/copy, 15 copies of DEIR at \$80 plus 65 CDs @ \$10)	\$2,000
AFEIR (10 copies @ \$90/copy)	\$900
FEIR (30 copies @ \$90/copy plus 30 CDs @ \$10)	\$3,000
Supplies and Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000
General & Administrative	\$692
<b>Subtotal Additional Costs:</b>	<b>\$12,907</b>
<b>TOTAL (without optional tasks)</b>	<b>\$86,577</b>

Optional Tasks	
CEQA Findings (Subtask 5.4)	\$4,600
Mailing and Distribution of Nortices	\$1,000
Additional Meetings and Hearings	TBD
Arch Surveys of Pipeline Alignments	\$2,000
CRLF Surveys	TBD



SOUTHLAND UPGRADE "PROJECT"

DEIR & FEIR QUOTE SHEET

Date: 3/17/09

NAME OF FIRM: Rincon Consultants, Inc.

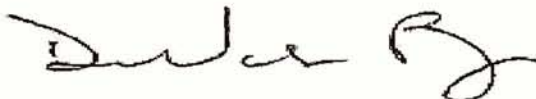
NAME OF PRINCIPAL: Duane Vander Pluym, D. ESE

ADDRESS: 1530 Monterey Street, Suite D, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

PHONE: 805-547-0900 FAX: 805-547-0901

E-MAIL: duane@rinconconsultants.com

NOT TO EXCEED EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR ALL FEES & CHARGES: \$86,577



3/17/09

Signature of Principal Authorized to Sign for Firm and Date

*This quote shall be valid for 90 Days from the date of Signature*





# RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

## Standard Fee Schedule for Environmental, Geoenvironmental, and Planning Services

Rincon Consultants' fee schedule is based on the time that is charged to projects by our professionals and support staff. Direct costs associated with completing a project are also billed to the project as discussed under Reimbursable Expenses below. The following sets forth the billing rates for our personnel.

<u>Professional and Technical Personnel</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Senior Principal .....	\$ 155-190/hour
Principal .....	\$ 125-150/hour
Supervising Environmental Scientist/Planner .....	\$ 120-140/hour
Senior Environmental Scientist/Planner .....	\$ 110-130/hour
Environmental Scientist/Planner .....	\$ 85-105/hour
Environmental Technician.....	\$ 75-85/hour
Environmental Field Aide.....	\$ 55-65/hour
AutoCAD, GIS Technician.....	\$ 85-95/hour
Graphic Designer .....	\$ 75/hour
Clerical/ Administrative Assistant.....	\$ 55/hour

Expert witness services consisting of depositions and in-court testimony are charged at a rate of \$295/hour.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>
Photo-Ionization Detector (PID)	\$ 120/day	DC Purge Pump	\$ 35/day
Flame Ionization Detector	\$ 200/day	Dissolved Oxygen Meter	\$ 45/day
Four Gas Monitor	\$ 120/day	Turbidity Meter	\$ 30/day
Oil-Water Interface Probe	\$ 85/day	Sound Level Meter	\$ 125/day
Water Level Indicator	\$ 35/day	General Field GPS	\$ 25/job
Temperature-pH-Conductivity Meter	\$ 50/day	Laser Rangefinder	\$ 40/day
Bailer	\$ 25/day	Integrated GPS/GIS	\$ 250/day
Disposable Bailer	\$ 20/each	Field Computer Equipment	\$ 45/day
Hand Auger Sampler	\$ 55/day	Vacuum Gas Chamber Sampler	\$ 25/day
Brass Sample Sleeves	\$ 10/each	Digital Projector/Computer	\$ 60/day
Decontamination Equipment	\$ 25/day	Infrared Sensor Digital Camera	\$ 75/day
Level C Health and Safety Equipment	\$60/person/day	Anemometer	\$ 30/day
Submersible Pump	\$ 160/day	Soil Vapor Extraction Monitoring Equipment	\$ 140/day

### Photocopying and Printing

Photocopies will be charged at a rate of \$0.08/copy for single-sided copies and \$0.16 for double-sided copies. Colored copies will be charged at a rate of \$1.00/copy for single-sided and \$2.00/copy for double-sided or 11"x17" copies. Oversized maps or display graphics will be charged at a rate of \$8.00/square foot.

### Reimbursable Expenses

Expenses associated with completing a project are termed Reimbursable Expenses. These expenses do not include the hourly billing rates described above. Reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. *Direct costs associated with the execution of a project are billed at cost plus 15% to cover General and Administrative services. Direct costs include, but are not limited to, laboratory and drilling services charges, subcontractor services, authorized travel expenses, permit charges and filing fees, printing and graphic charges, performance bonds, sample handling and shipment, equipment rental other than covered by the above charges, etc.*
2. *Vehicle use in company-owned vehicles will be billed at a day rate of \$85/day for regular terrain vehicle use and \$135 per day for 4-WD off-road vehicle use, plus \$0.85/mile for mileage over 50 miles per day. For transportation in employee-owned automobiles, a rate of \$0.85/mile will be charged. Rental vehicles will be billed at cost plus 15%.*

August 2008



San Luis Obispo Office  
1422 Monterey Street, Suite C200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Tel 805.543.7095 Fax 805.543.2367  
www.swca.com

2/36

March 13, 2009

Bruce Buel, General Manager  
Nipomo Community Services District  
148 South Wilson Street  
P.O. Box 326  
Nipomo, CA 93444-0326

**SUBJECT** *Proposal to Provide CEQA Review Services for the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project (SLO 188)*

Dear Mr. Buel:

SWCA Environmental Consultants' San Luis Obispo office (formerly Morro Group, Inc.) is pleased to submit our proposal to prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. We feel highly qualified to prepare the EIR because we have prepared project-specific and program EIRs for several wastewater treatment facility projects in the region, have over twenty years of experience preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for public facilities, and are familiar with the federal, state, and local regulatory processes for the design and construction of public projects, including wastewater treatment facilities, water and wastewater collection systems, and re-use of recycled water.

We believe that the environmental review process is a very important aspect of project approval since it gives the public an opportunity to comment on the project and the process. We are passionate about providing objective evaluations in the EIR process, and we know the importance of providing clear, understandable, and logically thought-out products that will make it easier for the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) to move the project through the review process.

The SWCA EIR team will be led by Shawna Scott, Senior Planner, who has over nine years experience implementing CEQA, including management of EIRs, for lead agencies on the Central Coast. We look forward to working with the NCSD's project team, including the Project Engineer and Fugro West, during the compilation and review of technical reports, identification of impacts and mitigation measures, and development of feasible project alternatives.

We have developed a scope of work that is reflective of the Request for Proposal, dated February 9, 2009, and includes a very tight time schedule in order to move this project forward in the process consistent with public mandates and your expectations. We are willing to adjust scope and costs to meet the NCSD's needs. If you have any questions about or scope of work or cost estimate, please feel free to call me at (805) 543-7095, extension 111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawna Scott".

Shawna Scott  
Project Manager

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Nipomo Community Services District  
Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Proposal to Provide  
**CEQA REVIEW SERVICES**

Prepared for:

Bruce Buel, General Manager  
Nipomo Community Services District  
148 South Wilson Street  
P.O. Box 326  
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Prepared by:



March 17, 2009

## INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants' San Luis Obispo office (formerly Morro Group, Inc.) is pleased to submit a proposal for the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluating the proposed Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrade Project. A Program EIR, as defined by §15186(A) of the CEQA Guidelines, is:

*...an EIR which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either:*

- (1) Geographically,*
- (2) A logical part in the chain of contemplated actions,*
- (3) In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or*
- (4) As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.*

To that accord, we propose to prepare a Program EIR to evaluate both specific upgrades (phase I) at a project level and disposal options (phase II) at a programmatic level, as outlined in the Nipomo Community Services District's (NCSD) Request for Proposals (RFP), dated February 9, 2009. Our proposed scope of work is designed to identify and address potential environmental impacts of the proposed project actions described in the *Southland WWTF Master Plan* (AECOM, January 2009), and the co-equal disposal options described in the *Preliminary Screening Evaluation of Southland WWTF Disposal Alternatives* (AECOM, January 2009). The following proposal is structured to reflect the scope of work required for both the project level evaluation of upgrades and the programmatic level evaluation of effluent disposal options.

### Proposal Organization

SWCA's proposal has been divided into five sections, which provide a comprehensive discussion of our approach to this EIR.

**Section 1 – Introduction:** Provides a brief discussion of the organization of the proposal, as well as a description of the proposed project and services requested. Also included in this section is a discussion of any proposed scope amendments and an agreement to the contract terms and conditions.

**Section 2 – Scope of Services and Timeline:** Identifies our proposed scope of work, based on review of project information provided by the NCSD, review of technical reports for the project site, and conversations with NCSD staff and consultants with knowledge of the project or project area. This section outlines the tasks and methodology proposed to address each environmental section and CEQA requirement. In addition, this section identifies the deliverables and outlines the timeframes associated with the project including the Project Description, EIR Outline, Administrative and Draft EIRs, Administrative and Final EIRs, and Findings.

**Section 3 – Personnel and Experience:** Outlines the project team's experience in preparing similar environmental documents, and the team's experience in managing projects with similar complexity, magnitude, and principal issue areas. In addition, this section includes a brief discussion on project team coordination and client coordination in preparing the EIR, as well as references for recent related projects in the county.

**Section 4 – References:** Includes project descriptions of related wastewater treatment facility projects and contact information for the client references.

**Section 5 – Cost Estimate:** Estimates the costs for each task identified in the scope of work. The costing is based on the development of the CEQA document and is organized by major tasks to be accomplished and the team member responsible for each task. Public hearings attendance, staff meeting attendance, and EIR reproduction and other direct costs are also included. Also included in this section is an agreement to the terms and conditions of the sample contract, as well as a signature that binds the offer set-forth in this proposal for a period of 90 days.

## **Project Understanding**

The following project understanding is based on review of the RFP, Expanded Initial Study (Douglas Wood & Associates, 2008), WWTF Master Plan, and Preliminary Screening Evaluation, as well as a conversation with Peter Sevcik, District Engineer.

## **Proposed Project**

The Southland WWTF is owned and operated by the NCSD, and treats a combination of domestic and commercial wastewater from the community of Nipomo. The existing facilities are permitted to serve 900,000 gallons per day (gpd) based on its maximum monthly demand. Average annual flow is 600,000 gpd with a maximum monthly flow of 800,000 gpd. The existing WWTF consists of a 12-inch sewer trunk main; headworks consisting of a Parshall flume, two grinders, and two Fairbanks Morse submersible influent pumps; four aeration ponds; eight infiltration basins; and, two sludge drying beds.

On February 7, 2006, NCSD received a Notice of Violation from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for several effluent water quality violation reported during 2005. An Action Plan (May 2006), Technical Memorandum (July 2006), and WWTF Master Plan were prepared in response to this notice to evaluate existing and future wastewater treatment demands of the WWTF. These efforts also identified the improvements that would be required to meet the demands, and a capital improvements program was developed to assist the NCSD in planning and financing the facilities.

## **Wastewater Treatment Facility and Collection Upgrades**

The proposed project consists of upgrades to the existing wastewater collection mains and the WWTF. These improvements entail replacement of approximately 4,200 feet of existing 12-inch sewer collection trunk main in South Frontage Road from Division Street to the WWTF headworks with a 21-inch pipeline; upgrading the influent pump station; construction of the screening and grit removal works, reconfiguration of the current treatment ponds, installation of the "Biolac" wave oxidation treatment system, construction of external clarifiers, re-configuration of the sludge storage ponds, lining of the sludge drying beds, and all related plumbing and instrumentation. The improvements to the WWTF will not only increase the treatment capacity from its current capacity of 0.9 million gpd to 1.4 million gpd, providing for increased demand, but is intended to improve effluent quality. Although it is not included in the current capital improvements plan, the NCSD is considering the provision of a 500-kilowatt solar power generating system as a subsequent project to serve as the primary power source for future WWTF operations.

## **Disposal**

The NCSD proposes to dispose of biosolids generated from the WWTF through one or a combination of methods including landfill disposal, land application, or composting at a regional composting facility. The NCSD also proposes to implement a public education program in an attempt to reduce salt loading from regenerative water softeners within the NCSD. The NCSD is currently considering a number of co-equal alternatives to effluent disposal.

## Effluent Disposal Options

While in the planning phase of upgrading the WWTF, technical studies revealed a perched mound of treated effluent was growing beneath the existing percolation ponds due to an aquitard that was preventing the mound from percolating into the deeper aquifer. Evidence suggests that the mound is slowly draining toward Nipomo Creek, potentially explaining the creek's status as an impaired waterbody for fecal coliform in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan.

Based on guidance provided by the RWQCB, the NCSO must pursue other discharge or reuse alternatives to comply with future discharge requirements. The NCSO cannot continue to discharge onsite without risking surfacing of the effluent mound. A Preliminary Screening Evaluation was prepared that describes ten disposal alternatives under consideration. Both reuse and disposal of effluent are being considered as end-use options for treated wastewater. Four approaches considered viable for reuse or disposal of treated wastewater from the WWTF include percolation within basins, percolation within subsurface system, irrigation with recycled water, and groundwater recharge. Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 of the Preliminary Screening Evaluation involve expanding the existing WWTF percolation basins to increase flows, percolating effluent with onsite basins to utilize the shallow aquifer for storage and pathogen inactivation, extracting the treated effluent from the mound and pumping the treated effluent to one of five proposed sites for percolation in basins or subsurface systems. Alternative 5 involves irrigation of recreation and open space landscapes with recycled water that has been either additionally treated at the WWTF or has percolated in onsite basins, extracted from mounds, then treated. Alternative 6 entails penetration of the aquitard below existing basins and installation of a permeable membrane or wells to enhance percolation from the upper (perched) aquifer to the lower aquifer (groundwater recharge/direct injection). Alternative 7 involves irrigation of Highway 101 right-of-way with recycled water that has been either additionally treated at the WWTF or has percolated in onsite basins, extracted from mounds, then treated. Alternative 8 involves irrigation of crops near the WWTF with recycled water that has been either additionally treated at the WWTF or has percolated in onsite basins, extracted from mounds, then treated.

## Project Location

The Southland WWTF is located immediately south of the intersection of South Frontage Road and Southland Street, in the community of Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County, California. The proposed project extends from the existing wastewater transmission mains, located on South Frontage Road south of Tefft Street and parallel to U.S. Highway 101. Potential wastewater disposal sites are located adjacent to the WWTF as well as locations east, south, and west of this facility within the Nipomo Mesa area. Surrounding land uses include residential and commercial uses to the north, agriculture to the south and west, and Highway 101 to the east.

## Issues

Based on review of information contained in the Expanded Initial Study, Master Plan, and Preliminary Screening Analysis; preliminary reconnaissance of the project site; and consultation with the NCSO Engineer, Peter Sevcik, there are a number of issues unique to the proposed project. In addition, a number of biosolids and effluent disposal options are under consideration by the NCSO. These disposal options have their own set of potential environmental impacts. A subsequent project that is currently not included for funding in the capital improvement project, but is being considered by the NCSO is the installation of an approximately 500-kilowatt solar array to power the expanded WWTF. Although details of the proposed solar array are not clear at this time, SWCA will work closely with the NCSO to clarify the details of this component of expansion, so it is evaluated at a programmatic level within the EIR. Environmental issues of concern addressed in the Program EIR would include:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Transportation and Circulation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Water Resources

The list above includes issues that were identified as having potentially significant impacts in the Expanded Initial Study. Although Agricultural Resources was not an issue listed as having potentially significant impacts in the Expanded Initial Study, it has been included in our scope of work because proposed effluent and biosolids disposal methods may affect agricultural lands. The Program EIR would be prepared to comply with CEQA. Emphasis will be on readability of the document by the public through clear, concise discussions of the issues. Technical verbiage will be defined if used in the text of the EIR. Detailed technical information will be included in the appendices. SWCA intends, if awarded the job, to ensure all impacts potentially resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be fully mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

### **Proposed Scope Amendments**

Included as part of our scope of services is the preparation of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for review by interested agencies and the public. During the agency and public review process, issues and concerns may arise potentially affecting the scope of work of the EIR. Once the NOP responses are received we will review the responses and determine if amendments to the scope are required.

### **Acknowledgement of Contract Provisions**

SWCA has reviewed the indemnification and insurance provisions required by the NCSD and the Standard Agreement, included as an attachment in the RFP, and does not have any objections at this time. SWCA recognizes that the NCSD reserves the right to negotiate with lesser ranked firms if the negotiation with the top ranked firm is unsuccessful.

### **Insurance**

SWCA carries \$1 million in General Liability Insurance and \$5 million in Professional Liability Insurance. Workman's Compensation Insurance is carried on all employees. Special insurance is carried on all leased equipment, including off-road vehicles. Certificates of insurance are available upon request.

## SCOPE OF SERVICES AND TIMELINE

### Proposed Approach

#### EIR Overview

The EIR will meet all requirements set forth in CEQA (Public Resources Code 21000 et. seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, 15000 et. seq.). The following scope of work descriptions for the key components of the EIR, that will be required per CEQA, are based on the information contained in the Expanded Initial Study, WWTF Master Plan, and Preliminary Screening Evaluation. In addition to this information, SWCA has evaluated the project based on information that we have in our files regarding the Nipomo Mesa area in the vicinity of the proposed WWTF expansion, our knowledge of wastewater treatment plant operations and potential for impacts, and our experience implementing feasible measures to mitigate potential impacts. We also understand how a programmatic EIR works, based on our recent experience with programmatic EIRs for wastewater treatment facilities; we have been able to tier off of a Program EIR with mitigated negative declarations and supplemental documents as subsequent projects under the program have been refined. It is our intent to provide NCS D with a workable document that meets all agency requirements and a document that will stand the test of time, until completion of the entire project, including subsequent projects. It is unclear at this point what other permits NCS D may need prior to facilities construction. We will work with the NCS D to ensure that we understand the permitting process and regulatory agencies specific to this project (i.e., County of San Luis Obispo, RWQCB, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District, state funds, federal funds, and others) and the associated required environmental review. The scope of work described below outlines our approach by discipline, the tasks associated with the various sections of the EIR, and the person responsible for preparation of each section. We understand that once the NOP responses have been received, we will have the opportunity to refine the scope of work prior to commencing EIR preparation. SWCA is committed to providing an excellent document within budget and the timeframe provided.

#### Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting

SWCA will prepare a draft NOP to meet the requirements of CEQA. The NOP package will include: a cover sheet with general information including the NCS D contact, a description of the proposed scoping process, and identification of meeting information; a project description including the proposed action and possible alternatives; the Initial Study; and, pertinent figures and exhibits. SWCA will be responsible for distribution of the NOP. One public scoping meeting is required, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15082(c)(1), if the project meets the criteria set forth by §15206(b), defining the project to be of regional, statewide, or federal significance. Based on the information provided by the NCS D, and knowledge of public interest in the Nipomo area, we assume that an NOP scoping meeting will be conducted; however, this decision will be made by the NCS D. We have included participation in a NOP scoping meeting as an optional task for the NCS D's consideration.

The draft NOP will be prepared by Jaimie Jones and will include the following scope of work:

#### Itemized Scope of Work

1. Review project description and identify any additional needs.
2. Submit a draft NOP package, including the use of appropriate NCS D forms. Provide one round of edits/corrections as requested.
3. Fifteen (15) copies of the NOP will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse. Additional copies will be provided to responsible agencies, and interested parties. The NOP will be distributed via regular mail (USPS), certified and with electronic return receipt. The costs for distribution of



the NOP are included in the cost estimate. An electronic copy will be provided for posting on the NCS D website, if requested.

4. Attend one NOP scoping meeting, and provide assistance as requested by the NCS D (Optional Task).

### ***Introduction and Summary***

The Introduction section of the EIR will include a summary of the project history and chain of events leading to preparation of the EIR, as well as a description of the EIR format. The Summary section of the EIR will include a brief description of the proposed project, an impact and mitigation measure summary table, and brief description of identified alternatives, including the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

The Introduction and Summary sections will be prepared by Shawna Scott with the assistance of Audrey Peters, in accordance with §15123 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, and will include the following scope of work:

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. Include a brief summary of the proposed project and location of the project, as well as the history of the project and processes leading up to the preparation of the EIR. Provide an explanation of scoping process and the EIR structure.
2. Provide summary of impacts (site specific and cumulative) and mitigation measures in tabular form, indicating class of impact, general description of the impacts and proposed mitigation measures within each resource issue area, and residual impacts after mitigation.
3. Provide a summary of the alternatives, environmentally superior alternative, and growth inducing impacts of the proposed project.
4. Prepare the Summary section as an Executive Summary to accompany electronic copies (CDs) of the entire EIR that will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse.

### ***Project Description***

The Project Description will be based on the information supplied by the NCS D. CEQA requires the project description to describe the “whole of the action,” which in this case includes the sewer collection trunk main replacement, WWTF upgrades, biosolids and effluent disposal options, and infrastructure associated with effluent disposal, as well as the proposed subsequent solar power installation. Proposed WWTF upgrades include construction of the influent pump station, construction of the screening and grit removal works, reconfiguration of the current treatment ponds, installation of the “Biolac” wave oxidation treatment system, construction of the external clarifiers, re-configuration of the sludge storage ponds, lining of the sludge drying beds, and installation of all related plumbing and instrumentation.

The Project Description will be prepared by Shawna Scott and will include the following scope of work:

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. Identify project site location and prepare legal description; include the Assessor’s Parcel Map as well as regional and vicinity maps.
2. Describe the proposed project. SWCA will request a project start-up meeting with the NCS D project manager. Prior to the meeting, we will prepare a list of information needed to adequately and thoroughly describe the project and its components; additional items will potentially be added to this list as a result of topics discussed at the start-up meeting. Additional copies of project plans,

forthcoming technical reports, electronic copies of AutoCAD and GIS mapping files, and other specific information will be requested at this time.

3. Identify project objectives, a description of project phasing, and a statement as to why the applicant wishes to pursue the proposed project at this particular time. Project objectives will be developed in close concert with the NCSD.
4. Prepare a comprehensive listing and description of the project improvements proposed as part of the project. Improvements will include any proposed preliminary landform alterations, grading, trenching, landscaping, and any other physical site alterations including on and off-site, temporary, and permanent infrastructure.
5. Compile a comprehensive list (in sequential order) of all County of San Luis Obispo (County), resource, and regulatory agency permit approvals and authorizations needed for the proposed project. This list will be developed in consultation with the NCSD and agency staff and will form the basis for the EIR mitigation measure timing component requirements.

### ***Environmental Setting***

This section will include a brief description of the physical setting of the project site, the surrounding land uses, and the cumulative development scenario. An evaluation of the proposed project's consistency with land use plans and policies, and a discussion of land use compatibility will be discussed in the Land Use section of the EIR (please refer to the Land Use section for proposed scope of work).

The Environmental Setting section of the EIR will be prepared by Shawna Scott and will include the following scope of work:

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. Describe the physical characteristics of the project sites and surrounding area (e.g., geology, biology, and land characteristics). Aerial photographs of the surrounding roadways and residential, open space, and sensitive resource uses will be included for frame of reference.
2. Describe the present use of the project site and potential effluent and an overview of the study area. The study area will be defined after discussions with NCSD and other responsible agencies. The study area will form the basis for the cumulative impact evaluation. This information will be included to familiarize the readers with the limits of the cumulative study area. We will request information from County staff regarding detailed environmental and project component specifics for those projects identified within the cumulative development scenario.
3. Describe the current land use designations as well as current zoning for the project site and potential effluent disposal sites. Land use issues and the consistency with plans and policies analysis will be located in the Land Use section of the EIR.
4. Develop the cumulative development scenario. SWCA will coordinate with NCSD staff to compile a list of past, current, and future projects considered appropriate for inclusion into the cumulative development scenario for the proposed project. NCSD staff will be responsible for providing detailed environmental and project component specifics for those projects identified within the cumulative development scenario, as available.

### ***EIR Issue Area Study Methodology***

An introduction to the environmental impact analysis portion of the EIR will be given to familiarize readers with the project site and surrounding area characteristics, as well as the format of the environmental analysis. Each issue of the environmental impact analysis will be divided into a description of the following:

1. Existing Conditions;
2. Regulatory Setting;
3. Thresholds of Significance as determined by the NCSO and in consultation with County Staff as appropriate (we assume that County and other agency thresholds applicable to the project would be included);
4. Impact Assessment and Methodology;
5. Project-Specific Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts;
6. Secondary Impacts of Mitigation Measures (if applicable); and,
7. Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts.

The mitigation measures will specify method of implementation and degree of effectiveness. Mitigation measures will be written in a format that includes a “timing” milestone and a method by which the measure can be monitored. Timing milestones will coincide with the various stages of the County planning and permitting process.

### **Issue Areas with Potentially Significant Impacts**

The following issue areas were identified with potentially significant impacts in the Expanded Initial Study, and will be the focus of the EIR analysis.

#### ***Aesthetics***

The Aesthetics section of the EIR will include an analysis of the project’s effect on public scenic views, on-site visual aesthetics and compatibility, and potential night lighting effects. Overall extent and quality of project visibility will be documented. The analysis will include a comparison of the existing on-site and through-site visual resources with the project features as proposed, and will identify any potential impacts to visual character.

Audrey Peters will prepare the Aesthetics section of the EIR, which will consist of the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

The proposed project site is located at the southern end of Nipomo, directly adjacent to Highway 101. Proposed project improvements would include the following upgrades to the existing WWTF and collection:

- Replacement of approximately 4,200 feet of existing sewage collection trunk main in South Frontage Road from Division Street to the WWTF;
- Construction of influent lift station;
- Installation of screening and grit removal system;
- Reconfiguration of current treatment ponds;
- Installation of the “Biolac” wave oxidation treatment system,
- Construction of external clarifiers;
- Reconfiguration of the sludge storage ponds,
- Lining of the sludge drying beds; and,
- Installation of related plumbing and instrumentation.

The evaluation of visual impacts will include all proposed structures and site amenities, vegetation removal, roads (if proposed), grading and earthwork, lighting, revegetation, landscaping, and other improvements for their complete affect on views.

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Determine and document the overall visibility of the project upgrades from public roads and viewing areas. Since the visibility is limited, simulations are not proposed as part of the scope; photos showing the existing views and methods to screen the views from Highway 101 will be included in the documentation.
2. Identify key viewing areas based on visual access to the site, viewer-group expectations and sensitivity, and applicable County General Plan policies.
3. Conduct preliminary identification and analysis of potential conflicts between existing visual resources and the proposed upgrades. This will be accomplished by comparing the identified visual resources with the proposed site plan.
4. Identify and quantify general and specific aesthetics impacts including the potential cumulative affects caused by the proposed project, based on the above analysis.
5. Provide impact-specific mitigation measures and identify any significant adverse unavoidable aesthetics impacts and residual impacts.

#### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

The proposed scope of work for the analysis of the disposal options will not differ significantly from the Project Level Analysis outlined above, except that it will focus primarily on Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9, which include construction of off-site percolation basins. The review will be prepared at a qualitative level.

#### **Agricultural Resources**

The project site is currently designated Rural Lands with irrigated crops being grown to the south and west of the site. The proposed upgrades to the facility will occur within the existing footprint of the WWTF, and upgrades will be analyzed for impacts to and compatibility with agricultural uses adjacent to the project site. No direct impacts to agricultural lands are anticipated as a result of proposed upgrades.

As referenced in the Expanded Initial Study and Preliminary Screening Evaluation, disposal options considered by the NCSD include irrigation of nearby crops with treated effluent, and land application of biosolids. Proposed disposal methods may potentially impact agricultural resources. Preparation of this section of the EIR will include consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, County Environmental Health Division, and County Agriculture Department to clarify existing regulations, identify potential impacts (both beneficial and adverse), and develop mitigation measures.

Shawna Scott will prepare this section of the EIR, which will include the following scope of work:

#### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

##### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Analysis will be initiated through consultation with the County Agriculture Department to determine critical factors including guidelines, agricultural and open space policies, and previous studies applicable to the site.

2. Identify soil classifications (i.e., prime agricultural soils) on and adjacent to the project site, and evaluate applicable ordinances, policies, and regulations regarding agricultural protection and compatibility.
3. Discuss the proposed project in conjunction with findings and recommendations made through consultation with County Agriculture Department and other responsible agencies as appropriate.
4. Quantify and discuss cumulative impacts to agricultural resources (i.e., prime agricultural land), and cumulative agricultural compatibility impacts.
5. Determine the acreage of conversion of Important Farmland (i.e., Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance) and Agricultural Land to non-agricultural land uses countywide by reviewing the Annual Report of the Farmland Monitoring and Mapping Program (California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection).
6. Identify any significant impacts to agricultural resources including those on the subject property, adjacent properties, and properties located downstream that may be adversely affected by increased runoff generated from the development of the project site. During analysis, feasible impact-specific mitigation measures/ or planning area standards will be identified. Residual impacts will be identified.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

The proposed scope of work for the analysis of the Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 will not differ significantly from the Project Level Analysis outlined above, as they have the potential to have site specific impacts to agriculture. Reuse alternatives, specifically the reuse of treated effluent to irrigate crops and the land application biosolids will require an evaluation of potential impacts as outlined in the scope above. As noted, additional agencies responsible for the regulation of recycled water use and application of biosolids will be consulted. The review of all alternatives will be prepared at a qualitative level.

### ***Air Quality and Climate Change***

The project site is located within the South Central Coast air basin, which does not meet state clean air standards. Current air quality concerns include high levels of ozone and fine particulates (PM10). The primary local regulatory agency is the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). The SLOAPCD prepared a CEQA Handbook (2003) as a guideline document for evaluating CEQA impacts and recommending standard mitigation measures. SWCA will consult directly with the SLOAPCD and will use the CEQA Handbook as a technical resource for the air quality section.

The air quality analysis will look at the proposed project in two ways. First, construction impacts would be assessed as short-term and localized in scale. This section focuses on estimating air emissions from constructing upgraded treatment facilities and additional collection lines. Secondly, a programmatic discussion will evaluate expand disposal capabilities, which includes climate change and growth inducing impacts.

The Air Quality and Climate Change section of the EIR will be prepared by Dave Morrow, and will include the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

The project will require a ten-month construction period. Construction includes site disturbance of a number of roads and fields near homes and other suburban uses. It will entail excavation and trenching in the community and substantial work at the existing treatment plant for new infrastructure. The construction

plan and activity levels dictate daily emissions of dust and diesel exhaust. Due to the proposed work area, SWCA anticipates a considerable quantity of emissions during the construction phase and subsequent need for mitigation. Diesel powered equipment will burn substantial amounts of fuel, which will create criteria pollutants as well as a substantial amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases (GHGs).

*Itemized Scope of Work:*

1. Consult with SLOAPCD at the start of the project for direction and recommendations.
2. Describe the regional climate, prevailing wind patterns, and their affect on air quality, and topography of the project area. Discuss existing air quality regulations by federal, state, and local agencies.
3. Discuss current air quality in the south county based on data from the California Air Resources Board. Several air monitoring stations in the project area can provide current data. Discuss the County's state and federal attainment status and current air quality planning efforts. Identify the location of air-pollution sensitive land uses.
4. Discuss existing air quality regulations by federal, state, and local agencies. Summarize air quality policies using thresholds of significance from the adopted County Clean Air Plan and recent state and local legislation as applicable to the project.
5. Using approved models (currently URBEMIS 9.2.4) or standard engineering methods, qualitatively estimate emissions for various criteria pollutants from the motor vehicles associated with construction phases. Using standard engineering methods, calculate emissions from the trenching and other construction activities. Discuss these estimated construction emissions including criteria pollutants, diesel particulate matter, and GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub>). Describe the SLOAPCD CEQA thresholds for significance set forth in their current guidelines. Evaluate the project's expected emissions in light of these guidelines. Emission calculation worksheets will be included in an appendix for reference.
6. Recommend mitigation measures that are practical and specific to identified thresholds specified by the air district. If necessary, significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated will be identified.

**Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

This analysis would be a more qualitative analysis of each of the effluent disposal options outlined in the Preliminary Screening Evaluation and it will address climate change effects and possible adaptation. The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association has produced a white paper with recommendations for evaluating GHG emissions and climate change. This paper provides specific guidance for estimating emissions from various project phases and includes a very comprehensive list of mitigation measures. This guidance, and guidance by the California Attorney General, will be used to prepare the GHG and climate change analyses based. The scope of the emission estimates is based on depth of information provided by the NCSA. The EIR will also note the GHG reduction benefits of solar power electricity generation compared to fossil fuel electricity generation.

*Itemized Scope of Work:*

1. Discuss air quality policies using thresholds of significance from the draft or adopted Sustainable Community Plan (required by AB 375) and other state and local legislation as applicable to the project. Discuss local and state regulatory environments as they relate to GHG emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and other known compounds).

2. Using appropriate models or standard engineering methods, qualitatively estimate emissions for various criteria pollutants from the motor vehicles associated with long-term operation phases of the project. Emission calculation worksheets will be included in an appendix for reference.
3. Describe the current state of anthropogenic climate change and projections for the coming century. Qualitatively discuss the significance of GHG emissions that emitted during construction and operation of the project. Because there are no current SLOAPCD thresholds for significance of GHGs, mitigation measures will be recommended based on consultation with SLOAPCD staff. This section will also include brief discussion regarding the project's beneficial effect compared to other alternatives, if any.

### **Biological Resources**

According to the Expanded Initial Study, several vegetative communities occur in the project area, including California annual grasslands, eucalyptus, agricultural, ruderal, and ornamental. It is our understanding that the project site consists of approximately 130 acres, of which approximately 90 acres are currently developed or disturbed. The remaining balance of 40 acres could potentially be disturbed by the project upgrades and operation of the proposed wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities. Both a quantitative and qualitative analysis of impacts would be conducted for the Project Level Analysis of Upgrades. We understand that ten potential disposal and reuse alternatives have been assessed, and will require programmatic review in the EIR. Proposed biosolids disposal options include landfill disposal, land application, or composting at a regional composting facility. A brief, primarily qualitative "umbrella" or "overview" analysis of potential impacts would be conducted for both biosolids and effluent disposal options.

According to a preliminary records search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, 2009), no special-status plant or animal species have been documented within the proposed project footprint; however, special-status species should be considered on a regional basis under CEQA. The Expanded Initial Study reported that a total of 34 special-status plant species are known to occur within the region and a total of 21 special-status animal species have the likelihood to occur within the project area based upon the presence of suitable habitats. Potential impacts to sensitive biological resources that have been identified to date include impacts to habitat for monarch butterfly and nesting birds. The project area also occurs within a vernal pool region as defined by the County Department of Planning and Building. Vernal pools are aquatic habitats that could support federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and/or California red-legged frog. It is also possible that an updated nine-quad search of the CNDDDB and consideration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) official species list for the county could reveal the potential for additional special-status species that would need to be considered under CEQA.

No recent biological field surveys have been conducted at the project site. The Expanded Initial Study indicated that biological field surveys are required in order to fully identify the nature and extent of potentially significant impacts of the proposed project on special-status plant and wildlife species that could occur in the project area and to identify required mitigation measures. Floristic surveys during the appropriate flowering season are necessary to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species considered. A wildlife inventory will be conducted simultaneously with any floristic survey effort. In addition, site assessments for vernal pool fairy shrimp and California red-legged frog may be required under USFWS protocol to ensure that the proposed project would comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which could result in a need for protocol surveys if suitable habitat is determined to be present.

Implementation of the proposed project may require approvals by regulatory agencies including a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification and General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from the Central Coast RWQCB, a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to comply with CWA Section 401 from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and a Public Resources Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). No recent

jurisdictional determination/evaluation has been conducted in the project area and such an evaluation may be required to determine if permits from these agencies will be necessary. An ESA Section 7 formal consultation or Section 10(a) Permit from the USFWS could also be required if there is a potential for "take" of a federally listed species as a result of implementing the proposed project.

SWCA will conduct site visits to verify existing information and collect new information, as necessary, regarding the presence and extent of sensitive resources on site. SWCA has prepared several environmental documents within the Nipomo area and is thoroughly familiar with the biological resources in the region. Habitat mapping will be conducted for the EIR in order to accurately quantify habitat loss. Technical information on the presence or absence of special-status species will be required to evaluate whether vegetation impacts may also impact special-status species. Impacts to biological resource issues will be addressed and evaluated in the EIR, and mitigation measures will be proposed as appropriate.

Geoff Hoetker will lead field efforts and prepare the Biological Resources section of the EIR, which will consist of the scope identified below:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review and compile existing project information. This task will focus on reviewing and compiling existing information relating to biological resources of the project site. Any available documentation pertaining to biological resources will be reviewed for accuracy and adequacy as part of this task. A list of sensitive species with potential for occurrence will be compiled based on a review of the CNDDDB, a species list for San Luis Obispo County obtained from USFWS, and other pertinent literature, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Where necessary, appropriate resource agencies including USFWS and CDFG will be contacted regarding special-status species with potential to occur in the project vicinity. Information obtained from review of existing literature and discussions with resource experts will be used to identify issues of biological concern within the project site and, if necessary, focus any subsequent field survey efforts.
2. Conduct ground-truth field surveys and mapping. This task will primarily focus on verifying existing information regarding sensitive biological resources of the project site. Two floristic surveys will be conducted to accommodate the flowering/identification season for all of the special-status plant species considered. A wildlife inventory will be conducted concurrently with the floristic surveys and habitat assessments will be made for each of the special-status animal species considered. As appendices to the EIR, a vernal pool habitat assessment and California red-legged frog site assessment will be prepared to determine if additional protocol-level surveys for vernal pool branchiopods (fairy shrimp) and/or California red-legged frog will be required. During the site surveys, plant communities will be assessed and mapped with regard to their potential to support special-status species. Any observed occurrences of special-status species or other sensitive resources will likewise be documented and mapped. The location, size, and distribution of plant communities/habitats will be mapped using our Global Positioning Systems (GPS) capabilities to document existing conditions. Protocol surveys are not included in this scope of work at this time, but if they are determined to be necessary, SWCA will be prepared to submit a proposal to provide these services.
3. Summarize baseline conditions. The survey and mapping effort will allow for the summarization of baseline conditions of the project site. This task will consist of preparing the biological resources setting section for the EIR. As part of this task, descriptions of major plant communities, wildlife resources, and special-status species of the project site will be prepared. In addition, a detailed discussion of key federal, state, and local regulations and policies associated with protection of biological resources of the project site will be included. Field surveys and mapping efforts will



provide the level of detail necessary to adequately identify and quantify project impacts to biological resources on the site.

4. Evaluate project-related impacts. As part of this task, the proposed project will be evaluated with respect to short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts to biological resources of the proposed project site and surrounding areas. Project maps will be reviewed to determine the locations of the proposed development relative to any identified sensitive resources. The focus of the impact assessment will be on determining potential project-related effects on sensitive plants and animals as well as sensitive communities known to occur or having potential to occur within the area proposed for development. Impacts associated with project implementation will be compared to defined thresholds of significance based on pertinent federal, state, and local plans and policies. Appropriate resource agency staff will be contacted to discuss potential project-related effects on sensitive resources of the project site.
5. Identify and discuss feasible mitigation measures for proposed project. This task will consist of developing mitigation measures to reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. Mitigation will focus measures that are reasonably feasible and effective, and will be developed in sufficient detail to allow monitoring for compliance. Long-term protective measures for sensitive habitats of the project site and adjacent areas will be identified as part of this task, and specific methods for minimizing direct impacts or degradation of sensitive habitats will be discussed. In addition, recommendations for avoidance of special-status species and habitats will be incorporated into the biological resources section as part of this task.
6. Jurisdictional waters assessment. As an optional task, if potentially jurisdictional aquatic features are observed within the project footprint, a jurisdictional waters assessment may be conducted. This would consist of a wetland/jurisdictional waters delineation following USACE standards to delineate potential federal and state wetlands and other waters. The jurisdictional waters assessment will be prepared in a manner suitable for submittal to the involved regulatory agencies for CWA and State of California Section 1602 compliance and the acquisition of permits/agreements.

## Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal

### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review and compile existing project information. This task will focus on reviewing and compiling existing information relating to biological resources of the project sites for each of the ten proposed alternatives. A list of sensitive species with potential for occurrence will be compiled for each of the ten alternative sites based on a review of the CNDDDB, a species list for San Luis Obispo County obtained from USFWS, and other pertinent literature, such as the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Where necessary, appropriate resource agencies including USFWS and CDFG will be contacted regarding special-status species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site alternatives. Information obtained from review of existing literature and discussions with resource experts will be used to identify issues of biological concern within the project site alternatives.
2. Analysis of aerial imagery and summarize baseline conditions. Aerial photos of the sites for the various alternatives will be analyzed and habitats characterized to allow for a qualitative summarization of baseline conditions and an assessment of habitat suitability for the special-status species considered. No field surveys are proposed at this time. The qualitative analysis will identify the need for subsequent surveys during subsequent consideration of the programmatic elements of the project, including, but not limited to field surveys, protocol surveys, and jurisdictional waters assessment.

3. Evaluate impacts. As part of this task, the ten proposed alternatives will be evaluated with respect to short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts to biological resources of the proposed project site and surrounding areas. The focus of the impact assessment will be on determining potential effects on sensitive plants and animals as well as sensitive communities known to occur or having potential to occur within the area proposed for development.
4. Identify and discuss feasible mitigation measures. This task will consist of developing mitigation measures to reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. In addition, recommendations for avoidance of special-status species and habitats will be incorporated into the biological resources section as part of this task.

### **Cultural Resources**

As noted in the Expanded Initial Study, prehistoric human occupation and use is documented on the Nipomo Mesa. To ensure compliance with CEQA and as recommended in the Expanded Initial Study, SWCA proposes to complete cultural and paleontological resources studies of the project components. The results of these studies will be used to prepare of the Cultural Resources section of the EIR. The EIR will use this technical information as a basis for avoiding or mitigating potential project impacts to cultural and paleontological resources.

SWCA proposes to conduct cultural and paleontological resources records searches, initial Native American scoping, and an intensive pedestrian survey of the following project components: upgraded treatment facilities and additional collection facilities. We propose to conduct records searches and initial Native American scoping only in support of programmatic-level analysis of the alternative disposal and reuse sites. All work will be summarized in detail in cultural and paleontological resources technical reports and analyzed in the Cultural Resources section of the EIR.

Kevin Hunt will lead field efforts and prepare the Cultural Resources section of the EIR, which will consist of the scope identified below.

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

As noted above, SWCA will conduct project analysis of the project components outlined in the *Southland WWTF Master Plan*. This will include cultural and paleontological resources records searches, initial Native American consultation, surveys, and preparation of technical reports. The results of the studies will be analyzed in the Cultural Resources section of the EIR.

### **Archaeological and Historic Built Environment Resources**

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Cultural Resources Records Search. SWCA will conduct a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search of the project area at the Central Coastal Information Center (CCIC) located at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The primary purpose of the records search is to acquire site records for all previously recorded cultural resources within and adjacent to the project area, as well as copies of all previous cultural resources studies. For cost-effectiveness, this records search will be conducted for both project and programmatic level components. A map showing the results of the literature search including areas previously inventoried and previously recorded sites will be provided. SWCA assumes that the CCIC will conduct this records search within a maximum of three hours.
2. Native American Scoping. SWCA will contact the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a review of their Sacred Lands File. The NAHC will determine if any

NAHC-listed Native American sacred lands are located within or adjacent to the project area or effluent disposal option areas. In addition, the NAHC will provide a list of Native American contacts for the project that they believe should be contacted for additional information. SWCA will prepare and mail a letter to each of the NAHC-listed contacts, requesting that they contact us if they know of any Native American cultural resources within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

3. **Cultural Resources Survey.** An SWCA archaeologist will conduct a Phase I intensive pedestrian survey of the entire 90-acre project area and 4,600-foot linear project component. An SWCA archaeologist will conduct the survey utilizing pedestrian transects spaced at maximum intervals of 10 meters, covering all portions of the project area. Transect accuracy will be maintained through use of a hand-held sub-meter accurate Trimble global positioning system (GPS). For the purposes of this proposal and cost estimate, SWCA assumes that the cultural resources survey will be negative for archaeological resources (i.e. no previously unrecorded archaeological resources will be encountered and no previously recorded archaeological resources will require updates). Any previously unrecorded archaeological resources identified during the survey would require a change order for formal recordation. No testing or excavation will be conducted, nor will any artifacts, samples, or specimens be collected during the survey. No survey will be conducted for programmatic level components.
4. **Cultural Resources Technical Report.** Upon completion of records search, Native American scoping, and survey, SWCA will prepare a cultural resources technical report. This technical report will document the results of the previous tasks, as well as provide recommendations for cultural resources within the project area and mitigation measures to avoid impacts to the resources. The report will meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines and will use the California Office of Historic Preservation's Archaeological Resources Management Report (ARMR) format. The report will include maps depicting the area surveyed for cultural resources. SWCA will submit a draft of this report to the County electronically for review. Upon receipt of the County's comments on the draft report, SWCA will incorporate the comments and prepare a final report. SWCA assumes that only one round of review will be necessary. A copy of the final report will be submitted to CCIC, per their requirements.

As locations of sensitive archaeological sites or Native American cultural resources will be depicted and described in the report, it will be considered confidential; the report may not be distributed to the public. In order to protect these sensitive resources, the confidential technical report shall be made available only to qualified cultural resources personnel, the landowner, and project management personnel on a "need to know" basis.

5. **Cultural Resources Section of the EIR.** The Cultural Resources section of the EIR will be prepared based on the results of the technical study. The EIR section will include discussion on the cultural setting, potential for project-related impacts to cultural resources, and mitigation measures.

### ***Paleontological Resources***

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. **Paleontological Resources Records Review.** SWCA will examine records maintained by the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) in order to determine if there are any previously recorded paleontological resources within the project area boundaries and within a one-mile vicinity of the project site and its linear component. This records review will include both the project and programmatic level study areas. In addition, a comprehensive review of published and unpublished literature and geologic mapping of the study area will be performed.

2. **Paleontological Resources Site Visit.** Subsequent to the completion of the paleontological records search and map review, SWCA will conduct a reconnaissance survey of the 90-acre project site to locate (1) surface fossils; (2) exposures of potentially fossiliferous rock; and (3) areas in which fossiliferous rock or potentially fossiliferous surficial deposits could be exposed or otherwise impacted during construction-related ground disturbance. Based on knowledge of the existing ground disturbances within the project site and for the purposes of this proposal and cost estimate, SWCA assumes that the paleontological resources survey will be negative (i.e. no previously unrecorded paleontological resources or localities will be discovered). No excavation will be conducted, nor will any fossil specimens be collected during the survey.
3. **Paleontological Resources Assessment Report.** At the conclusion of the records search and literature review, a Paleontological Resources Assessment Report will be drafted documenting the results of the paleontological study. In addition, a paleontological sensitivity map will be prepared and recommended mitigation measures specific to the project area will be provided. SWCA assumes that a draft of this report and figures will be submitted to the NCS D electronically for review. Upon receipt of comments on the draft document, SWCA will incorporate NCS D input and produce the final report. SWCA assumes that one round of review will be necessary and the report will be submitted electronically.
4. **Paleontological Resources Section of the EIR.** The Paleontological Resources section of the EIR will be prepared based on the results of the technical study. The EIR section will include discussion on the paleo-geological setting, potential for project-related impacts to significant paleontological resources, and mitigation measures.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Effluent Disposal**

For cultural and paleontological resources, SWCA will conduct programmatic level analysis of the effluent disposal options outlined in the Preliminary Screening Evaluation through records searches and literature reviews presented in the respective technical reports. No surveys will be conducted for the effluent disposal options; however, the reports will include recommendations for future studies, if necessary, as well as preliminary findings of the sensitivity of each effluent disposal option for cultural and paleontological resources.

### ***Archaeological and Historic Built Environment Resources***

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. **Review Results of Cultural Resources Records Search and Initial Native American Scoping for Effluent Disposal Options.** As noted above, the CHRIS records search and Native American scoping will include programmatic level components. SWCA cultural resources specialists will review the results for the presence of cultural resources within the components, as well as the level and extent of any previous cultural resources studies within the effluent disposal areas.
2. **Reporting on Programmatic Level Components.** SWCA will analyze the various effluent disposal sites for their sensitivity for cultural resources. Each site will be ranked based on the presence of previously recorded cultural resources and the potential to encounter additional resources during survey. These results will be presented in the technical report, as well as the Cultural Resources section of the EIR.

## **Paleontological Resources**

### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Analyze Results of Paleontological Resources Records Review for Effluent Disposal Options. As noted above, the UCMP records review will include programmatic level components. SWCA paleontologists will review the results for the presence of fossil resources within the components, as well as the level and extent of any previous paleontological resources studies within the effluent disposal areas.
2. Reporting on Programmatic Level Components. SWCA will analyze the various effluent disposal sites for their sensitivity for paleontological resources. Each site will be ranked based on the sensitivity of underlying geologic units as well as the presence of known fossil localities, if any. These results will be presented in the technical report, as well as the Paleontological Resources section of the EIR.

## **Geology and Soils**

The geologic conditions of the project area are relatively straightforward and have been well- characterized in reports previously prepared for the NCSO. Based on the depth of the soils in this area, it is not likely that bedrock would be encountered during any of the construction activities. The topography of the project area is relatively flat to slightly rolling and therefore steep slopes would not be encountered by the project. Construction activities are not expected to result in steep slopes. Slopes constructed for treatment ponds would be designed by professional engineers and the design would be consistent with County and Uniform Building Codes. Given the lack of geologic hazards it is anticipated that compliance with these codes and other existing construction-related regulations would mitigate impacts to a less than significant level. Fugro West has prepared a number of background geotechnical documents for the proposed project.

Based on the Expanded Initial Study and our experience in the area, soils may be highly erodible in this area. Projects of this size and on soils of this type are required to have drainage, sedimentation and erosion control plans by both the County of San Luis Obispo, and the RWQCB. It is anticipated that preparation of these plans prior to construction would mitigate any erosion and sedimentation impacts. The soils are not known to be expansive.

No additional subsurface exploration or review by Professional Geologists is proposed. The Geology and Soils section of the EIR will be prepared by Keith Miller, and will be based exclusively on existing geologic information prepared for the NCSO by Fugro West, and other documents, including the County's Safety Element, and the NRCS soil surveys. Preparation of this section will include the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

Proposed upgrades would include construction of new facilities, grading, and trenching. These activities would disturb previously disturbed soils and native soils, in some cases. These activities have the potential to increase erosion and sedimentation. Construction of the treatment ponds would include excavation and construction of engineered slopes.

### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Perform site visit and review existing geologic and engineering reports prepared for the NCSO. Conduct file research and interpretation of available subsurface information. Recent updates on geologic information will be reviewed along with review of the County General Plan Safety Element.
2. Identify and describe the existing geology and soil conditions onsite. The descriptions would be derived from existing sources.

3. Provide an evaluation of potential impacts due to erosion, slope stability, seismic events, liquefaction, and landslides. All short-term and long-term impacts, if any, resulting from construction activities will be discussed and evaluated based on existing information.
4. Identify mitigation measures, as needed. We anticipate that compliance with existing local and state requirements for construction projects will mitigate impacts to a less than significant level.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

The proposed scope of work for the analysis of the effluent disposal options will not differ significantly from the Project Level Analysis outlined above, except that it will focus on the ten alternative sites and construction corridors where improvements are proposed. The review will be based on existing geologic and soils information and be prepared at a qualitative level.

### **Land Use and Planning**

The proposed project sites are located in the Rural Lands land use category. Surrounding land uses include residential, commercial, and agricultural uses, and open space. Highway 101 is located directly east of the WWTF site and trunkline proposed for upgrades. The Land Use section of the EIR will include an analysis of existing and proposed land uses, and identify potential inconsistencies or incompatibilities at both a site specific and regional level.

In addition, this section of the EIR will include an assessment of consistency with plans and policies, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15125(d). SWCA will review applicable plans and policies, after consultation with County, and make a preliminary determination of the proposed project's consistency with applicable plans and policies. Consistency with policies and requirements of the San Luis Obispo County Framework for Planning, Land Use Ordinance, other applicable County General Plan documents, the Central Coast Basin Plan, Clean Air Plan, and other pertinent regional plans will be discussed in this section. Where inconsistencies are identified, the EIR will include a discussion of measures that would bring the project into consistency.

Audrey Peters will prepare the Land Use section of the EIR, which will include the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Consult with the County Planning and Building Department and RWQCB to verify the appropriate list of General Plan policies, Planning Area Standards, Ordinance requirements, and policies for the proposed project.
2. Describe the current land use designations as well as current zoning requirements for the project site. If physical impacts to a specific land use (i.e., agricultural resources, recreational opportunities) are identified, they will be discussed under the appropriate resource analysis section within the EIR.
3. Assess the project's consistency with adjacent land uses, and land uses in the region. Much of this information will be included in an appendix.
4. Review all land use policies for the county and any other applicable general or regional plans and ordinances. SWCA will review all plans, policies, and applicable standards and make an initial determination of potential consistency with the proposed project. This will be done at a stage when potential impacts and mitigation measures are known, because this has a bearing as to the project's potential consistency with plans and policies. In addition, SWCA will provide a written

statement as to why the project is or is not potentially consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and standards. This section will also include a discussion of additional mitigation measures, recommendations for project description modifications, and possible policy changes (i.e., General Plan Amendment) necessary to achieve consistency.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

The proposed scope of work for the analysis of the effluent and disposal options will not differ significantly from the Project Level Analysis outlined above, except that it will focus on the ten alternative sites and construction corridors where improvements are proposed.

### **Noise**

The proposed project site is located within a moderately populated area with mixed residential uses. Surrounding land uses include agriculture, scattered residences, and open space. Ambient noise levels are generally low except along major road corridors such as Highway 101. The existing noise setting will be defined by a technical noise analysis conducted by SWCA. The noise analysis will use existing traffic counts obtained from the County Public Works Department and Caltrans. These counts will be correlated with in-field noise measurements, which will provide the data to develop site-specific noise contours, onto which the projects expected noise would be overlain.

During the construction phase, potential noise impacts would include vehicle noise on proposed haul roads, and equipment noise generated by trucks, equipment, and portable machinery. During operation of the WWTP, increased noise levels could result from vehicle traffic going to the facility and sounds from pumps and static electrical equipment. The noise analysis will include an assessment of the existing noise environment, identification of potentially sensitive noise receptors near the development site and adjacent to proposed haul routes, evaluation of potential noise impacts during all phases of the project, and identification of mitigation measures.

Dave Morrow will conduct the technical noise analysis, and will prepare the Noise section of the EIR, which will consist of the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

Implementation of the proposed project would include trenching and other construction activities requiring the use of large diesel equipment. Typically, large diesel equipment can produce sound levels that interfere with human speech and use of private yard areas. Sound energy is additive and construction noise would be an additional sound level over existing background sound. Operation of the facility may generate additional noise levels, potentially increasing the ambient noise level of the area. SWCA has a large library of sound measurements and would use sound measurements from representative equipment to forecast noise levels. SWCA has extensive experience with noise mitigation strategies specific to construction and operational noise; where applicable, the noise analysis will prescribe measures to attenuate noise levels to protect property use and community values.

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Prepare a Noise Technical Report. The report will identify County noise standards and requirements for new and expanded stationary land uses. The report will include discussion of likely noise increases above existing levels and how sensitive receptors could be affected. This discussion will be quantitative and will provide expected changes in noise contours near the proposed project. A map will be prepared showing expected noise contours during construction and operation of the project. The report will be included in the appendix of the EIR.

2. The preliminary noise consultation will include review of the proposed project's construction plan and the type and amount of heavy equipment expected. To calculate construction phase Ldn and CNEL values, SWCA will conduct 24-hour monitoring on at least one site on, or near, the proposed pipeline routes. Spot Leq monitoring will be conducted simultaneously at other near-by sites. These sets of measurements will be correlated to allow calculation of noise contours. Monitoring locations will be documented with photographs and maps showing the area, sound-level monitoring locations, and resultant existing noise levels.

This section would define the proposed truck haul routes during the proposed ten-month construction period. Generally, an increase of up to ten percent in traffic volume does not result in a measurable noise increase. Expected temporary noise increases will be identified and mapped. The existing noise setting will include charts and maps showing ambient noise levels. The relation of potentially noise-sensitive land uses near the project site and along the haul routes would also be identified. Typically sensitive land uses are nature preserves, schools, homes, residential care facilities, and areas important for bird and wildlife breeding and resting.

3. Evaluate potential short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts based on thresholds identified in the County Noise Element, Land Use Ordinance, and Expanded Initial Study Checklist. Impacts will be identified for the construction and operational phase. Each alternative will be evaluated in sufficient detail to identify potentially significant impacts.
4. Develop mitigation measures designed to reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. Mitigation will focus on those measures that are reasonably feasible and effective. Mitigations will be specific and developed in sufficient detail to allow monitoring for compliance.
5. Noise section of the EIR. The Noise section of the EIR will be prepared based on the results of the technical analysis. The EIR section will include discussion on the ambient noise setting, potential for construction and operational noise impacts, cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

Some Alternatives in the Preliminary Screening Evaluation may have the potential to create more operational noise than others. The range of disposal Alternatives will be evaluated for potential noise-producing activities (if any). Preparation of this section of the EIR will be qualitative and descriptive.

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Evaluate each disposal option for noise-producing equipment or activities. Describe in tables and text any expected differences among the disposal options.
2. Describe maintenance activities and potential noise producing equipment or procedures.
3. Discuss any unavoidable long-term noise producing activities or actions, and applicable mitigation measures.

### **Population and Housing**

The proposed project site is located in the southernmost portion of the community of Nipomo. Surrounding development includes residential, commercial, agricultural, and open space uses. The San Luis Obispo County General Plan will be reviewed for pertinent information relating to the existing build-out limits, local jobs/housing balance, and housing demands. The Population and Housing section of the EIR will include a determination of housing demand and an assessment of the project's affect on the build-out limits, and population, employment, and housing balance.



The EIR analysis of population and housing impacts would be prepared by Audrey Peters and will include the following scope of work:

*Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review the elements of the County General Plan and San Luis Obispo County Jobs/Housing Balance Report to determine projected build-out rates for local communities and the potential for the proposed project to foster additional population growth.
2. Consult with the County Long-Range Planning and Housing and Economic Development Divisions regarding population and housing data.
3. Identify any project-specific or cumulative impacts, including the project's potential effect on land use values.
4. Evaluate and recommend potential mitigation measures that may reduce adverse long-term population and housing impacts.

**Programmatic Level Analysis of Disposal**

Some options for effluent disposal pose the potential to impact housing, specifically in the case of alternatives that include the construction of new percolation basins. In addition, a number of the alternatives for effluent disposal/reuse may pose impacts to housing during the construction of effluent transmission line.

1. Review aerial imagery and conduct reconnaissance surveys to assess potential effluent disposal alternative sites and transmission lines.
2. Identify potential housing impacts (qualitatively) to occur as a result of each alternative effluent disposal methods. This includes secondary impacts associated with construction of water pipelines to reuse sites. Depth of impact analysis will reflect amount of information available for each disposal method and location.
3. Suggest potential avoidance to housing, and/or recommend mitigation measures that could reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the alternative effluent disposal methods.

**Utilities and Service Systems**

According to the Expanded Initial Study prepared for the proposed project, the upgrades included in the proposed project will increase the wastewater treatment capacity and capabilities, and may result in the elimination of a potential constraint for future development within areas served by the NCS D. The Expanded Initial Study also identified the increased percolation of effluent into the groundwater basin as a potentially beneficial impact of increased wastewater treatment facilities. We have included this issue in our issue area discussions due to the Initial Study's findings of potentially significant impacts. However, these issues will be addressed in detail in the Growth Inducing Impacts, and Water Resources sections of the EIR, and we do not propose a specific scope of work for this issue area at this time. SWCA will refine the scope of work for this issue area in consultation with the NCS D and their technical experts.

### ***Traffic and Circulation***

The proposed project site is accessed from the north via West Tefft Street and Orchard Lane, or South Frontage Road. The site is accessed from the south via Hutton, Joshua, and Orchard Road. The site is adjacent to Highway 101. As noted in the Expanded Initial Study, construction traffic would potentially result in the need for temporary closure or diversion of traffic, or would reduce access along South Frontage Road during construction of the new sewer main. This traffic would include farm equipment. The access roads may also be affected by a temporary increase of truck traffic during construction of the other improvements, such as the reconstruction of the two treatment ponds. The biosolids disposal and land application sites have not been clarified, as the NCSD is considering options, but disposal activities would potentially increase truck traffic.

The Traffic and Circulation section would be prepared by Keith Miller and include the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

Generally, direct construction-related traffic impacts may be mitigated through the development of a Construction Activities Management Plan, which would be approved by the County Department of Public Works prior to construction. Based on the intensity of the activities proposed, it appears that this approach would be adequate mitigation for the proposed project. It also appears that based on the scale of the proposed improvements, the potential increase in employee trips would be minimal and not result in significant impacts, although they may contribute cumulatively to the West Tefft/Highway 101 interchange.

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. Review and compile existing issue area information. This task includes consulting with the County Public Works Department and Caltrans, and reviewing the South County Area Plan and Circulation Element to identify existing traffic issue areas in the vicinity of the project site.
2. Determine potential project contribution to local circulation network. Potential truck trips and other construction-related traffic will be quantified to the extent information is available. Total employee-related trips will be quantified.
3. Identify project-related impacts. Impacts associated with construction activities and increased employee trips on the local circulation network will be evaluated based on consultation with the County Department of Public Works and Caltrans, as applicable.
4. Recommend mitigation measures. Mitigation measures are anticipated to include development of a Construction Activities Management Plan

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Effluent Disposal**

Effluent disposal would not generate additional truck trips, but increased production of biosolids would potentially increase the number of truck trips. The disposal location for biosolids has not yet been identified.

#### ***Itemized Scope of Work***

1. Identify likely locations for biosolids disposal and truck routes.
2. Identify likely average number of truck trips resulting from biosolids disposal activities and compare those to existing trips made

3. Identify potential impacts to the local circulation system.
4. Recommend potential mitigation measures, as applicable.

### **Water Resources**

In 2006, the NCSD received a Notice of Violation issued by the RWQCB. Effluent was migrating into Nipomo Creek from the percolation basins. In response to this notice and to assist in planning for future wastewater treatment and disposal demands, the NCSD prepared a Master Plan. In addition to the Master Plan, the NCSD has completed, and is completing additional hydrogeologic studies. These studies have identified the amount and impacts of the existing migration of effluent on Nipomo Creek. Additional studies are underway to evaluate the feasibility of different wastewater disposal methods that could be implemented by the NCSD, and identify potential issues associated with these methods and increased effluent migration.

The proposed project may affect surface and groundwater resources in a number of ways. Continued use and expansion of the percolation ponds may increase the amount of effluent migrating to Nipomo Creek. The project would also potentially increase percolation of additional effluent into the groundwater basin. The NCSD has considered alternative effluent disposal methods, including deep injection and beneficial reuse of the effluent for surface irrigation and/or use at recreation or open space facilities. Land application of biosolids may affect surface water quality. The proposed project may also affect surface water resources as construction activities could result in increased erosion and sedimentation; however this issue will be discussed in the Geology and Soils section.

The Water Resources section of the EIR will be based extensively on documentation available from the NCSD, documents currently being prepared, and other resources currently available. No additional groundwater testing, subsurface work or groundwater modeling is included in this scope of work. This section will be prepared by Keith Miller, and will include the following scope of work:

### **Project Level Analysis of Upgrades**

Construction of the proposed collection and treatment upgrades of the project would increase the amount of effluent percolating and migrating towards Nipomo Creek. This issue has been evaluated extensively by the NCSD, and a number of treatment alternatives that may affect the quantity and quality of percolating effluent have been proposed. This section of the EIR will determine potential environmental impacts associated with percolation of effluent into ground or surface water resources.

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review and compile existing project information relating to the project site(s) and underlying groundwater basin. This includes reviewing the Draft Wastewater Treatment Facility Master Plan, the Fugro reports, and any other hydrogeologic reports available. In addition the County Environmental Health Division, RWQCB and/or appropriate nearby mutual, private, or public water companies will be consulted.
2. Review and summarize water quality baseline data in the area of the project site. The study area will be defined in consultation with the NCSD and based on existing information.
3. Identify potential water quality impacts to occur as a result of short and long-term percolation and migration of effluent from percolation ponds. This task includes comparing predicted effluent water quality to water quality thresholds for treated effluent, defined by the RWQCB.

4. Recommend mitigation measures that could reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. These may include alternative treatment and disposal methods.

### **Programmatic Level Analysis of Effluent Disposal**

There are a number of proposed effluent disposal options available to the NCSD, although a preferred method or combination of methods has not yet been chosen. This section of the EIR will focus on these methods and determine the potential impacts to Water Resources based on the method of disposal and the location. It will be based on the information available from the NCSD and other wastewater treatment plant data. This section will also identify any beneficial impacts of effluent reuse for irrigation.

#### *Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review and compile existing issue area information. This task includes identifying the disposal options considered and potential locations of disposal. This task also includes summarizing the regulatory environment associated with beneficial reuse of treated effluent.
2. Identify potential water quality impacts (qualitatively) to occur as a result of each alternative effluent disposal methods. This includes secondary impacts associated with construction of water pipelines to reuse sites. Depth of impact analysis will reflect amount of information available for each disposal method and location.
3. Recommend mitigation measures that could reduce, to the degree possible, the significant, adverse impacts associated with implementation of the alternative effluent disposal methods.

### **Other Issue Areas**

Issues addressed within the Expanded Initial Study and determined not to be significant will be discussed in this section of the EIR, which will be prepared by Sarah Millus. A description of these items, including, Energy and Mineral Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Public Services, and Recreation will be included in the EIR along with justification of why they were deemed less than significant.

### **Other Required EIR Sections**

SWCA will prepare the EIR following all CEQA, NCSD, and County requirements. Other required sections, including Significant Irreversible Environmental Effects and References, will be included in the document.

### **Alternatives Analysis**

CEQA *Guidelines* (§15126.6(a)) requires an EIR to describe a reasonable range of alternatives to a project, or to the location of a project, which could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. An analysis of various alternatives to the proposed project will be required as part of the EIR.

The Alternatives Analysis section will be prepared in accordance with §15126.6 of the CEQA *Guidelines*, and will include the "No Project" Alternative. The discussion will include reasonable alternatives capable of eliminating or reducing significant adverse environmental effects to a level of insignificance. Secondary impacts of the alternatives will be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the project as per CEQA. This section of the EIR will: (1) describe the range of reasonable alternatives to the project; (2) examine and evaluate resource issue areas where significant adverse environmental effects have been identified and compare the impacts of the alternatives to those of the proposed project; and (3) identify the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Shawna Scott, with the assistance of Audrey Peters, will prepare the Alternatives section of the EIR, which will consist of the following scope of work:

*Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Conduct an alternative screening analysis that limits the number of alternatives evaluated in detail to those alternatives that are environmentally preferred, can be feasibly implemented, and that achieve most of the basic objectives of the proposed project. This analysis will occur after an evaluation of preliminary impacts has been completed. This allows alternatives to be developed that have the highest potential to avoid or mitigate one or more significant impacts.
2. Conduct an analysis of the alternatives listed below in addition to any other alternatives that may arise during the scoping or Notice of Preparation response process. These alternatives may include, but are not limited to, the following:
3. No Project Alternative: This alternative will describe impacts based on the existing conditions and zoning without further development such as the proposed project.
4. Re-designed Project Alternative: This alternative will include analysis of a similar project on the proposed project site that has a different layout/location on-site and that modifies the level of the proposed improvements.
5. Reduced Project Alternative: This alternative will include analysis of a project with similar components as the one proposed, but of a more limited size and scope that would reduce otherwise significant impacts to less than significant levels.
6. Alternative Project Location: This alternative will include analysis of a project similar to the one proposed, but located on an alternative site that would reduce otherwise significant impacts to less than significant levels. It is likely that this alternative would not be carried forward in the screening analysis.
7. Prepare a matrix displaying the major characteristics and significant environmental effects of each alternative, and a discussion of any other significant effects that may result from an alternative in addition to those caused by the proposed project.
8. Identification of the preferred alternative. If the "No-Project" alternative is determined to be the preferred alternative, an Environmentally Superior Alternative will be recommended among the other alternatives.

*Growth Inducing Impacts*

CEQA *Guidelines* (§15126.2(d)) state that for the preparation of EIRs, growth-inducing effects are defined as "...ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." The CEQA *Guidelines* expand upon this description by stating, "Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a wastewater treatment plant might, for example, allow more construction in service areas)."

This section of the EIR will analyze the proposed project in terms of its potential to substantially induce growth in the surrounding area.

Shawna Scott, with the assistance of Audrey Peters, will be responsible for the preparation of the Growth Inducing Impacts section, which will consist of the following scope of work:

*Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review and summarization of all applicable planning documents as they relate to growth inducing impact information.
2. Review of the proposed project in terms of its potential for fostering economic or population growth, either directly or indirectly, within the study area.
3. Identification of significant growth inducing impacts, including the secondary effects of the potential for other growth as a result of expansion of the wastewater treatment facility.
4. Identify additional feasible mitigation measures (if applicable).

*Mitigation and Monitoring Program*

Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires an agency making findings pursuant to CEQA to adopt a reporting or monitoring program to ensure implementation of mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant environmental effects. SWCA has prepared many Mitigation and Monitoring Programs (MMPs) as part of the CEQA process and is familiar with monitoring program preparation techniques. The purpose of the MMP will be to ensure compliance with all recommended mitigation measures identified in the EIR. The MMP will include the following:

- Identification of responsibilities and duties;
- Implementation procedures, including both monitoring and reporting procedures; and,
- Description of each EIR mitigation measure, monitoring activities, and the responsibilities of the various parties, along with the timing and frequency of monitoring and reporting activities.

A draft MMP will be prepared as part of the Draft EIR in order to allow the reviewing agencies to comment. The monitoring program will contain procedures that are reasonable and feasible to implement given the current contracting procedures and construction techniques.

Jaimie Jones of SWCA, in consultation with the entire project team, will be responsible for the preparation of the MMP, which will include the following scope of work:

*Itemized Scope of Work*

1. Review of the mitigation measures provided in the EIR and preparation of a list of all mitigation measures that will require implementation if the project were approved. This list will form the basis of the MMP.
2. Review of any monitoring program management plans currently existing with the County at the time of preparation of the monitoring plan. The management parameters will be set up based on current County standards. This MMP will specify the duties of the various management personnel directly responsible for the monitoring.
3. Establishment of a monitoring program with all mitigation measures requiring monitoring categorized by discipline. This program will outline the various components that will be required for each discipline, identify the appropriate timing of monitoring for each component tied to County permit issuance or project construction phase, identify the personnel responsible for monitoring, and determine the method of compliance.

### **Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects of the proposed project that are deemed “considerable” will be discussed as a sub-topic within each of the above environmental issue areas. The cumulative development scenario identified for each environmental resource will be described in this section. Cumulative effects of the proposed project that are deemed “considerable” will be discussed based on the environmental resource. CEQA Guidelines §15065(c) states that “cumulatively considerable” environmental impacts pertain to the incremental effects of an individual project that 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. Cumulative effects will be discussed within each resource section, based on a cumulative development scenario defined prior to initiation of the EIR analysis.

### **Response to Comments**

SWCA has prepared numerous EIR Response to Comments sections and has developed a thorough and cost-effective methodology to prepare responses in an efficient manner. SWCA anticipates significant neighborhood interest in the project and comments from the various responsible agencies, and have therefore included a total of 50 hours of SWCA staff time as part of the scope of work for responding to public and agency comments on the Draft EIR. This would include responding to approximately 20 substantive comment letters. Should preparation of the response to comments section significantly exceed 50 hours, SWCA will notify the NCSD and request a revised scope of work for this task.

### **Findings**

A total of 40 hours is included as part of the scope of work for preparation of EIR Findings. SWCA has prepared Findings on EIRs in the past for various agencies and is familiar with this procedure. SWCA will prepare these Findings in a format approved by the NCSD and will provide the NCSD with hard and digital copies.

### **Staff Meetings, Public Meetings, and Hearings**

Based on this scope of work, SWCA’s Project Manager will be available to meet with NCSD staff on five (5) occasions, including a “kick-off” meeting and at least four (4) other agency meetings. The scope of work includes SWCA’s Project Manager and selected project team members attending up to four (4) public hearings. The scope of work for meetings was developed based on our extensive experience assisting lead agencies with EIR preparation. SWCA will attend these meetings only if authorized by the NCSD and will be prepared to respond to questions, make presentations, and/or participate in an advisory capacity relating to preparation of the EIR.

### **Proposed Timeline**

#### **Schedule and Deliverables**

SWCA’s project team will initiate work on the CEQA analysis immediately following authorization by the NCSD. The schedule for completing the EIR is estimated in Table 1 (milestones) and in Figure 1. Key deliverables include the following:

- NOP package;
- Draft Project Description and EIR outline;
- Administrative Draft EIR, including the Administrative Draft MMP and Appendices;
- Draft EIR, including the Draft MMP and Appendices;
- Administrative Final EIR including Administrative Response to Comments, MMP, and Appendices;
- Administrative Draft Findings; and,
- Final EIR, including Final Response to Comments, MMP, Appendices, and Findings.

PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE CEQA REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE SOUTHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – NIPOMO, CALIFORNIA

As noted in this list, we propose to develop the MMP throughout the EIR process to allow NCSD, public, and agency review of the MMP. SWCA will assist the NCSD with the public notice process and provide consultation regarding circulation of documents pursuant to CEQA. SWCA will make every effort to complete tasks and prepare deliverables ahead of schedule, if possible.

**Table 1. EIR Deliverable and Preparation Schedule**

Task	Copies Submitted	Estimated Completion Period
Draft Notice of Preparation (NOP)	1 hard copy 1 electronic copy	2 weeks upon authorization to proceed
NOP package circulation	30 hard copies 1 electronic copy	2 weeks upon NCSD approval of Draft NOP package
NOP Responses and Scope Amendments (if applicable)	10 hard copies	2 weeks upon close of 30-day NOP review period
Draft Project Description and EIR Outline	1 hard copy 1 electronic copy	3 weeks after authorization to proceed on EIR analysis and receipt of any requested materials
Administrative Draft EIR with MMP and Appendices	10 hard copies	12 weeks after close of NOP public review period
Draft EIR with MMP and Appendices (including NOC form)	30 hard copies 50 CDs	3 weeks after receipt of NCSD comments on ADEIR
Public and agency comments on Draft EIR	10 hard copies	1 week upon close of 45-day Draft EIR public review period
Administrative Final EIR with Response to Comments, MMP, and Appendices	10 hard copies	3 weeks upon close of 45-day Draft EIR public review period
Draft CEQA Findings	10 hard copies	3 weeks upon close of 45-day Draft EIR public review period
Final EIR with Response to Comments, MMP, and Appendices (including NOD form)	30 hard copies 30 CDs	3 weeks upon receipt of NCSD comments on AFEIR
Final CEQA Findings	30 hard copies 30 CDs	3 weeks upon receipt of NCSD comments on AFEIR
Draft and Final EIR	1 CD	Upon completion of Final EIR



PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE CEQA REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE SOUTHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – NIPOMO, CALIFORNIA

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The EIR will be printed two-sided on white recycled paper at 8 1/2 x 11 vertical format with 11x17 graphic insertions when needed. Color graphics will be used where necessary to assist in understanding complex information. All documents will be spiral bound or three-hole punched per directions in the RFP. Working drafts for staff use will be presented in three-ring notebook binders large enough to handle the Final EIR. SWCA will submit a master copy of the Draft and Final EIR, Mitigation Monitoring Program, and Appendices on a compact disc in Microsoft Word 7.0 or earlier version for use by the County in preparing staff reports. Spreadsheet and databases developed for the EIR will be included on this disc using the latest County spreadsheet software or in PDF or JPEG format. All other computer-produced materials will be submitted to the County in the proper programs and formats (i.e., Microsoft Excel 7.0, AutoCAD, and ArcView).

PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE CEQA REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE SOUTHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – NIPOMO, CALIFORNIA

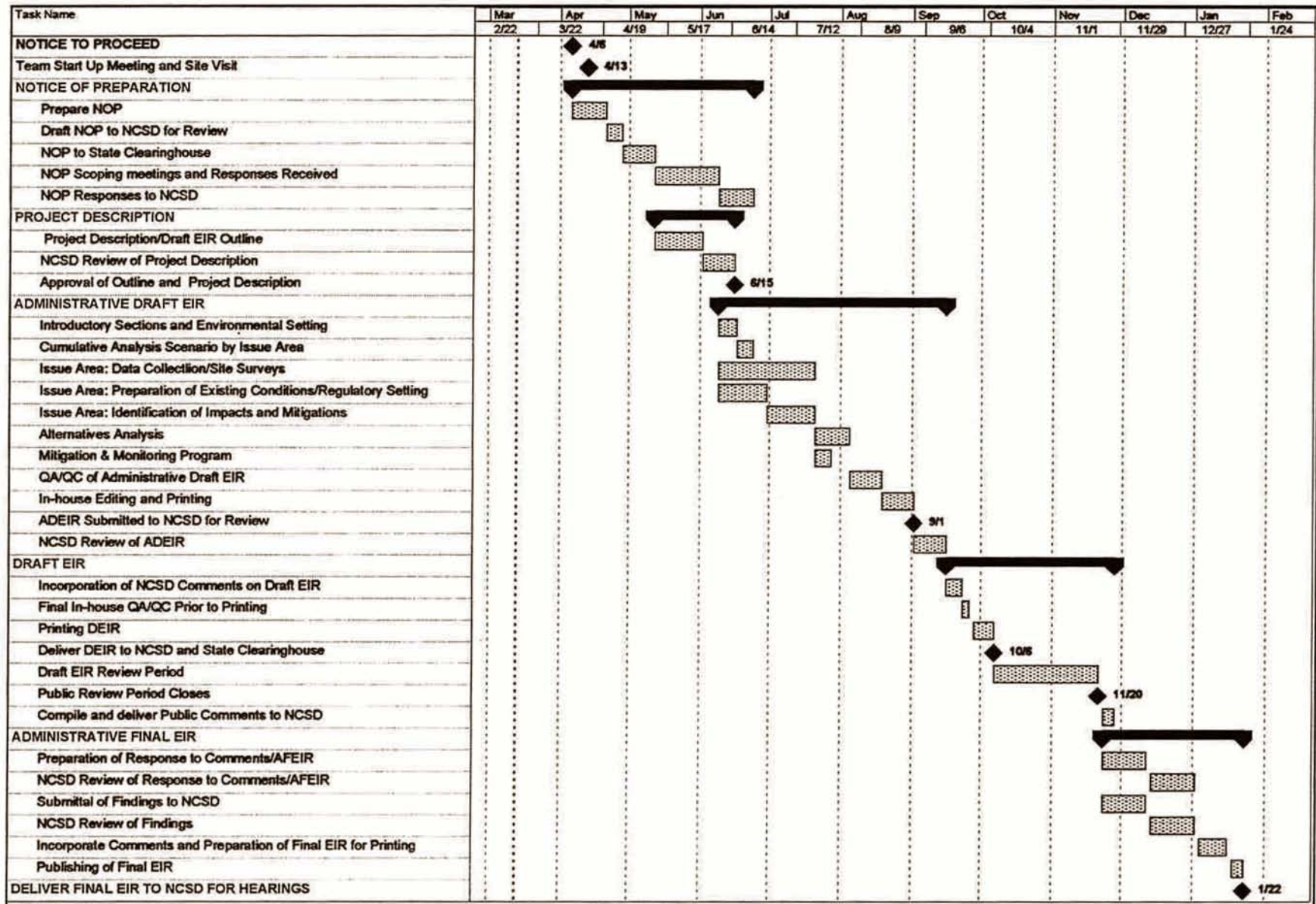


Figure 1. EIR Preparation Schedule

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## PERSONNEL AND EXPERIENCE

### Statement of Qualifications

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is an employee-owned company, specializing in natural and cultural resources, environmental planning, and geographic information services. Since 1981, SWCA has grown into a large business with more than 500 employees and 23 offices throughout the western United States, Hawaii, and Guam, including four offices in California alone. Since 1984, SWCA's San Luis Obispo office has completed hundreds of environmental documents for local, state, and private projects, with a focus on the preparation of a wide range of CEQA and technical environmental documents for local agencies throughout central California. These documents range from mitigated negative declarations (MNDs) and expanded initial studies (ExISs)/MNDs to very large environmental impact report (EIRs). Whether preparing documents completely "in-house" or with project teams consisting of multiple sub-consultants, SWCA's San Luis Obispo office has demonstrated a high level of competency in preparing all levels of CEQA determinations and has consistently produced quality deliverables in a timely manner for public agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County. Our San Luis Obispo office has retained the Morro Group name for purposes of local recognition, but we are fully interfaced with SWCA and effectively work within our larger corporate structure of SWCA.

SWCA's San Luis Obispo office has provided a wide range of environmental consulting services to private and public sector clients on the Central Coast since 1984, and has operated out of the office in the City of San Luis Obispo for over 15 years. We specialize in environmental document preparation, biological investigations, construction and mitigation monitoring services, agency permitting, and preparation, implementation, and monitoring of restoration and revegetation programs. We have completed an average of over one hundred projects per year over the last 20 years, and have earned a reputation for completing a wide array of difficult projects in a timely and cost effective manner. SWCA's attention to quality has resulted in a reputation as a firm that can handle the most controversial projects and has earned us recognition in the industry through "outstanding environmental document" awards granted by AEP for the Area 9 Wastewater Treatment Facilities EIR (1987), the MFS Globenet Corporation/WorldCom Network Services Fiber Optic Cable Project EIR (2002), and the Halcyon Road Projects Master EIR (2007). SWCA's Office Director, Bill Henry, and Senior Consultant, Mary Reents, have directed all of the company's projects and maintain an emphasis on objectivity and feasible solutions to difficult issues.

SWCA has prepared a variety of environmental documents of varying size and complexity for numerous public agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County over the last 24 years. These projects have included EIRs, Environmental Impact Studies (EISs), Initial Studies (ISs), ExISs, MNDs, Mitigation Monitoring Programs (MMPs), Natural Environment Study Reports (NESRs), Biological Assessments (BAs), Biological Resource Survey Reports (BRSRs), Biological Constraints Analyses, Wetland Delineations, Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (HMMPs), and Revegetation and Restoration Plans. SWCA's experience managing and preparing environmental documents for a diverse variety of projects ensures a comprehensive and objective analysis of potential effects and alternatives.

### Contact Information

The EIR team consists of SWCA (Prime Consultant) and four sub-consultants. Contact information for each consultant is presented in Table 1 below. SWCA has previously worked on numerous occasions with almost all the sub-consultants selected for this project on a variety of EIRs and other County environmental documents, and we have conducted a thorough review of all their qualifications. Previous working experience with sub-consultants ensures the project team has a smooth working relationship. We are confident that the project team will prepare a thorough and legally defensible EIR.

**Table 2. Consultant Contact Information**

Consultant	Contact Information
SWCA Environmental Consultants	1422 Monterey Street, Suite C200 San Luis Obispo CA 93401 (805) 543-7095 Contact: Mary Reents

**EIR Preparation Project Team**

The project team members and their assigned duties on the EIR are presented in the following paragraphs, and full resumes of SWCA and sub-consultant team members are included in Appendix A. SWCA has worked with the sub-consultants on the project team on a variety of environmental documents in the past. Our project team’s experience executing technical studies and preparing EIRs will provide a concise and thorough EIR on this project.

**SWCA Project Team Members**

*Project Management Team*

**Mary Reents, Senior Consultant.** Ms. Reents will serve as the Project Director and will be responsible for quality assurance and quality control for this project. She will also be available for meetings and hearings as needed and will be the contracting officer for this project. Ms. Reents has been managing and preparing environmental studies following federal and state guidelines since 1972. She is a 1971 graduate of Stanford University in Environmental Psychology and has continually taken graduate courses and seminars on a variety of environmental review and management topics. Ms. Reents has demonstrated her ability to provide strong project management and specialized expertise in preparation of EIRs, EISs, socioeconomic studies, feasibility studies, monitoring studies, restoration and revegetation projects, and federal and state compliance documents. As Senior Consultant with SWCA, she is given the role of senior project director with authority to represent SWCA and execute corporate contracts. As a Project Manager for SWCA, Ms. Reents is responsible for client liaison, agency liaison, budget preparation, contract administration, project planning, staffing, and quality control for projects under her direct administration. Her career has included the preparation of over 500 environmental documents throughout the western United States, including municipal facilities projects, wastewater treatment plant facilities and large highway projects. Ms. Reents has recently completed several large environmental documents, including the Coalinga General Plan Update Master EIR, Coalinga WWTP Program EIR and Supplemental EIR, West Hills Community College District Farm of the Future Master EIR, the five-year Madonna Enterprises/Costco Wetlands Restoration Program, and the five-year Caltrans Central District Generalist Environmental Services Agreement (as a sub-consultant to Parsons). Currently, she is providing technical consulting to the Los Osos WWTF technical team, is managing the preparation of the Grover Beach Land Use Element and EIR, and is directing the work effort on a variety of on-call service contracts for the County Department of Public Works, and is overseeing the Caltrans Districts 5 and 7 biological resources work effort (as sub-consultant to Parsons). Her ability to manage complex and controversial projects will assist the NCSO by ensuring that this project remains on schedule and responds to agency, public, and applicant concerns with respect to potential environmental effects of the project.

**Why Selected?**

- More than 35 years experience preparing environmental documents on complex and controversial projects.
- Preparation of large energy-related EIRs and EISs.
- Strong familiarity with local and regional character, including San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Fresno Counties.

**Shawna Scott, Planning Program Director.** Ms. Scott will serve as the Project Manager and will be responsible for the preparation of the Introduction, Summary, Project Description, Cumulative Issues Review, Alternatives Analysis, and the Growth Inducing Impacts/Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes sections of the EIR. Ms. Scott has over nine years experience implementing CEQA for cities, communities, and rural areas in Central California. Ms. Scott works in SWCA's San Luis Obispo office and is responsible for managing contracts with the County Division of Environmental and Resource Management and General Services Agency Parks Division to prepare environmental documents for both private and public projects. Ms. Scott has prepared over one hundred environmental documents including EIRs, MNDs, ExISs, preliminary environmental analysis reports, mitigation and monitoring plans, consistency with plans and policies, CEQA findings, and staff reports. Ms. Scott has experience conducting environmental analysis for variety of projects including general plan and ordinance amendments, grading plans, habitat restoration and enhancement, private solar and wind energy projects, residential development, public utilities improvements, commercial/retail development, mixed-use redevelopment projects, wireless telecommunications facilities, wineries, community parks, schools, transportation projects, subdivisions, and agricultural clusters. Recent documents managed and prepared by Ms. Scott include the Oak Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade EIR, Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Tract Map and Development Plan EIR, and Busick Tract Map EIR. As a key lead agency consultant, Ms. Scott has demonstrated focus on the client's specific needs and directives related to information management and disclosure, agency consultations, and document preparation, which is imperative to successful implementation of environmental documentation.

#### Why Selected?

- Over nine years experience in San Luis Obispo County.
- CEQA, environmental planning and analysis expertise.
- Experienced project manager for over 100 EIRs and MNDs.

**Bill Henry, AICP, Office Director.** Mr. Henry will provide quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), and will conduct the final review of the EIR before publication. Mr. Henry has been preparing environmental documents in California and the County since 1988. As Office Director, Mr. Henry retains a diverse workload by working directly on the preparation and management of a wide array of environmental documents and projects in addition to performing company ownership and management responsibilities that include client liaison, agency liaison, preparation of project budgets, administration and review of contracts, staff and project planning, and quality control for projects under his direction. Mr. Henry has managed or prepared several hundred environmental documents throughout the San Luis Obispo County and the Central Coast region. This experience includes preparation, coordination, and processing of a wide variety of environmental documents, monitoring plans, revegetation plans, technical reports, resource agency permits, and resource protection and conservation studies. In additions to document QA/QC, Mr. Henry's role will be to ensure that the project team has the necessary tools to complete the project in a timely manner.

#### Why Selected?

- 20 years experience preparing environmental documents for the County of San Luis Obispo.
- Five years serving as an EIR Assistant Project Manager for the County of San Luis Obispo.

#### *Environmental Issue Analysis Team*

**Keith Miller, Senior Planner.** Mr. Miller will prepare the Geology & Soils, Traffic & Circulation, and Water Resources sections of the EIR. Mr. Miller has over eight years experience in land use and environmental planning involving the preparation and processing of discretionary land use and construction permits, and subdivision applications. He has knowledge of policies and procedures of local government planning operations and federal and state laws related to planning, zoning, and environmental policy. Mr. Miller has experience working for public agencies, implementing local land use ordinances, general plans, CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act

#### Why Selected?

- Experience preparing CEQA analyses for projects in the Arroyo Grande area.
- Familiarity with local geologic conditions
- Over 8 years experience in San Luis Obispo County.

(NEPA), and Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). He has acted as project manager during the preparation of EIRs, constraints analyses, and a variety of other environmental documents, including over 40 MNDs. He has been responsible for the preparation of individual technical studies as well, including air quality assessments, noise impact assessments, and farmland impact studies, among others. Mr. Miller has also prepared Geology & Soils, Traffic & Circulation, and Water Resource sections for both MNDs and EIRs. Mr. Miller's recent experience in southern San Luis Obispo County includes work on the Drainage section of the Halcyon Road Projects Master EIR, the Brisco Road/Highway 101 interchange Air Quality and Noise analyses, and he is currently the project manager for the Arroyo Grande Creek Waterway Management Plan EIR and EA.

**Dave Morrow, AICP, Acoustical and Noise Consultant.** Mr. Morrow will prepare the Air Quality & Climate Change and Noise sections of the EIR. Mr. Morrow has a broad range of experience in air quality and noise analysis, and has worked in many industrial settings, including refineries and oil fields, power stations, factories, wastewater treatment plants, asphalt batch plants, mines, heavy construction projects and quarry blasting. Mr. Morrow has extensive experience preparing air quality and noise sections for community plans and EIRs and is a published researcher on air pollution topics and has taught university-level classes in environmental impact analysis and air quality. His technical expertise in air quality analysis includes preparing transportation control measures for the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) Clean Air Plan, performing toxic and hazardous assessments for large projects using diesel equipment, conducting dispersion modeling for combustion and toxic sources, and performing toxic assessments of locomotive emissions. He has prepared project-specific emission inventories, evaluated compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and recommended control technologies. Mr. Morrow has worked on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies since the early 1990s. He has developed and successfully implemented GHG reduction strategies at both the project and plan level. Mr. Morrow has conducted noise measurements in highly varied outdoor and industrial environments. He has prepared community noise contours, projected future noise levels created by traffic volume increases, and prepared project-level and community noise plans with appropriate mitigations. Mr. Morrow's extensive knowledge of local air quality conditions and his extensive experience preparing CEQA documents ensure a comprehensive but concise analysis of the project from start-up to decommissioning.

#### Why Selected?

- Extensive experience in Central Coast air quality planning, including as a primary author of the SLOAPCD Clean Air Plan.
- Routinely evaluates large and complex projects and performs multi-pathway air modeling for criteria pollutants and toxics.

**Sarah Millus, Environmental Specialist.** Ms. Millus will prepare the Utilities & Service Systems and Other Issues sections of the EIR. Ms. Millus has more than five years of experience as a biologist in California and has over two years of consulting experience. Ms. Millus has prepared dozens of environmental documents, including BAs, habitat assessments, and MMPs. She is also experienced with preparing CEQA documents, including mitigated negative declarations and environmental impact report sections. Ms. Millus provides environmental and planning assistance to the County of San Luis Obispo on a variety of residential, winery, and wireless telecommunication projects. Ms. Millus recently completed the Final Supplemental EIR for the Coalinga Wastewater Treatment Plant Trunk Line Alignment, and she is currently the assistant project manager for the City of Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade CEQA-Plus services. Ms. Millus has experience consulting with lead agency departments, resources agencies, and responsible agencies, such as USFWS, CDFG, Public Works and Emergency Response Departments, APCD, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Ms. Millus' experience preparing CEQA documents, her ability to coordinate with various agencies to ensure compliance with standards and regulations, and her responsiveness to the lead agency make her a great asset to the project team.

#### Why Selected?

- Local experience preparing EIR sections and MNDs.
- Knowledge of lead agency guidelines, policies, and consultation procedures.

**Audrey Peters, Assistant Planner.** Ms. Peters will be preparing the Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Land Use & Planning, and Population & Housing sections of the EIR, and will be assisting in the preparation of the Introduction, Summary, and Alternatives sections. As an Environmental Planner, Ms Peters has over two years of experience preparing and compiling a variety of environmental documents including IS/MNDs, agricultural impact assessments, and visual impact assessments. She has also researched and written socioeconomic and environmental justice reports that meet Caltrans and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Ms. Peters has played a major role in EIR preparation. She is adept at writing Land Use, Population & Housing, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Recreation, and Public Services & Utilities sections of EIRs. She has also prepared CEQA Findings, assisted in quality assurance of EIRs, and facilitated document compilation. Ms. Peters has experience working as a liaison between clients and various state and federal regulatory agencies and has prepared permit applications for Nationwide Permit Authorizations for the USACE, Water Quality Certifications for the RWQCB, and Streambed Alteration Agreements for CDFG. Ms. Peters has knowledge of each agency’s regulations and current requirements. Ms. Peters’ experience preparing CEQA and NEPA documents and her ability to coordinate with various agencies to ensure compliance with standards and regulations would be a great asset to the project team.

#### Why Selected?

- Over two years of experience preparing CEQA documents.
- Familiarity with Population and Housing issues, and Public Services and Utilities providers within San Luis Obispo County.

**Geoff Hoetker, Senior Biologist.** Mr. Hoetker will lead the biological survey and agency coordination efforts and will prepare the Biological Resources section of the EIR. Mr. Hoetker has over 10 years of consulting experience as a wildlife biologist and field botanist in California, and over four years of experience as a Wetland Training Institute (WTI)-trained wetland delineator. He has extensive experience in project management and preparing technical reports, including preliminary environmental constraints analyses, survey reports, ESA Section 7 Biological Assessments (BAs), Caltrans Natural Environment Studies (NESs), CEQA documentation, wetland delineation reports, and mitigation and monitoring plans. Mr. Hoetker is experienced with general special-status species surveys for plants and animals, amphibian handling and relocation, and small mammal trapping. He has extensive experience with the sensitive flora and fauna of San Luis Obispo County and surrounding areas. He has also served as a USFWS-approved biologist for California red-legged frog and an agency-approved biologist for steelhead on projects requiring federal Biological Opinions. Mr. Hoetker recently completed a Biological Resources section for an EIR for a proposed wastewater treatment plant project in Coalinga, California. He also has worked on numerous projects in southern San Luis Obispo County, including a Constraints Analysis for stormwater management in Nipomo, biological reports for large development projects in Arroyo Grande and Nipomo, and habitat assessments and protocol surveys for various County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works projects.

#### Why Selected?

- More than 10 years of experience as a biologist in California.
- Preparation of numerous Biological Resources sections for EIRs and other CEQA documents.
- Extensive experience with the ecology and sensitive species of San Luis Obispo County.

**Barrett Holland, Biologist.** Mr. Holland will conduct the biological surveys for this project. Mr. Holland has five years of experience in general biological services. He has performed a variety of biological and environmental tasks including wetland, riparian and dune restoration, native seed collection, special-status flora and fauna surveys, habitat mapping, biological constraints analyses, nesting bird surveys, protected tree surveys, and the implementation of mitigation monitoring plans. He has extensive experience with common and sensitive flora and fauna of San Luis Obispo County and surrounding areas. In San Luis Obispo County, he has participated in mitigation efforts for various special-status plants including, Well’s manzanita, sand mesa manzanita, Jones’s bush mallow, Indian

#### Why Selected?

- Five years of experience as a biologist in California.
- Extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of San Luis Obispo County.



mountainbalm, and San Luis Obispo County lupine. He also has extensive experience conducting surveys for various special-status wildlife species found in San Luis Obispo County including, California red-legged frog, silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle, and Morro shoulderband snail. Mr. Holland has been involved with various environmental monitoring projects related to stormwater pollution prevention, special-status species, sensitive habitats, soil remediation, road and bridge construction projects, and mitigation project success evaluation. Mr. Holland has become proficient in the use of the Trimble GeoXT Global Positioning System (GPS) and regularly utilizes GPS to delineate wetlands and waters of the U.S., to map protected trees, to delineate plant communities, map recreational trails, and to document special-status plant and animal locations.

**Kevin Hunt, Cultural Resources Manager.** Mr. Hunt will be the Cultural Resources Project Manager for this project. He has more than 14 years experience conducting cultural resources studies in support of environmental documents. Mr. Hunt has prepared cultural sections of EIRs, EIR/EAs, and EIR/EISs. He has developed mitigation measures for trails and other linear projects ranging from 0.5 mile to 150 miles in length. Mr. Hunt has recorded and evaluated resources for NRHP, CRHR, and local register eligibility including: buildings, sites, districts, roads, ranches, canals and ditches, and cemeteries. His enthusiasm for California history, particularly broad patterns and infrastructure, informs his cultural settings and context development for resource evaluation. As a cultural resources generalist, he ensures technical studies consider the full spectrum of cultural resources and full range of potential impacts, as well as provide creative yet defensible mitigation measures. His recent experience includes serving as Project Manager/Instructor for the Cahuilla Native American Monitor Training Program in Riverside County, California, and managing cultural and paleontological studies for the Market Street Village Project in San Diego, California, the Monrovia Nursery Development Project in Glendora, Los Angeles County, and the Sunrise Powerlink Project in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

#### Why Selected?

- More than 14 years experience in cultural resources management.
- Conducted cultural resources work on more than 20 water and/or sewer infrastructure projects.
- Prepared cultural studies for two previous wastewater treatment facility expansions.

**John Dietler, Ph.D., RPA, Cultural Resources Principal Investigator.** Dr. Dietler will be the cultural resources principal investigator for the project. He is responsible for overseeing the production of high-quality cultural resources research by creating innovative research designs, mentoring staff, and providing QA/QC for technical reports. He routinely conducts cultural resources work in support of development, infrastructure, and multidisciplinary environmental projects in compliance with CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Dr. Dietler is a registered professional archaeologist (RPA) with more than 13 years experience in cultural resources management, including over 100 projects in California. He is a versatile researcher who has supervised research projects of all sizes and descriptions, including large and small survey, significance testing, and data recovery programs. Dr. Dietler specializes in the analysis of prehistoric craft economies, particularly those of California and Florida hunter-gatherers. After completing an M.A. thesis on Santa Cruz Island, he applied method and theory developed in the Chumash region to a case study in South Florida for his dissertation research. The study produced novel solutions to questions that scholars have wrestled with for over a century in that region. This extensive California experience and record of innovation enables him to produce high-quality research within limited budgets and timeframes.

#### Why Selected?

- Registered Professional Archaeologist with Ph.D. in Anthropology.
- More than 13 years experience in California archaeology.
- Expertise in the prehistoric archaeology of the Santa Barbara Channel and adjacent regions, including San Luis Obispo County.

**Robert Ramirez, RPA, Cultural Resources Field Director.** Mr. Ramirez will be the cultural resources field director for the project. He has more than 14 years of professional experience identifying, excavating, and analyzing historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in California and Nevada. Mr. Ramirez has supervised large and small field crews and completed technical reports of archaeological studies including various cultural and environmental settings, phases of work, and reviewing agencies. He has conducted lithic artifact and shell bead analysis as well as archival research and Native American consultation. His professionalism and experience result in effective execution of survey schedules and team coordination. Of particular relevance to this project is Mr. Ramirez's local experience in the southern San Joaquin Valley and central coast of California. He has participated in archaeological testing projects in Kern and Santa Barbara Counties, as well as monitoring projects in Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties.

#### Why Selected?

- Registered Professional Archaeologist with M.A. in anthropology.
- More than 14 years experience in California archaeology.
- Extensive local experience.
- Strong record of completing archaeological studies on time and within budget.

**Cara Corsetti, Paleontology Program Manager.** Ms. Corsetti will be the paleontology principal investigator for the project. Ms. Corsetti is a Program Director for SWCA who oversees all paleontological projects assigned to the California region. Her current responsibilities include agency and client coordination, program development, proposal writing and project management, budget preparation and oversight, managing and coordinating the tasks of the paleontological staff, paleontological monitoring and mitigation plan design, conducting environmental assessments, and the production and editing of technical reports. With over 15 years of management experience, Ms. Corsetti has been involved in over 300 projects throughout California, and has successfully worked with various lead agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Energy Commission (CEC). Ms. Corsetti completed both her undergraduate and graduate course work at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is very familiar with the paleontological resources present in San Luis Obispo County region.

#### Why Selected?

- Paleontologist with M.S. in Geology.
- More than 15 years of management experience.
- Extensive experience with power generation projects, including solar farms.

**Jessica DeBusk, Paleontologist.** Ms. DeBusk will serve as the project paleontologist during the preparation of this EIR. Ms. DeBusk is a project manager for the paleontology program at SWCA's South Pasadena office. She has over six years of experience in all aspects of paleontology, including conducting paleontological field surveys and assessments, construction-related excavation monitoring; fossil salvaging and matrix sampling; specimen identification, laboratory preparation and analysis of micro- and macrofossils, and preparation of technical documentation and final reports. She has field and laboratory experience in paleobotany, micropaleontology, invertebrate paleontology, and vertebrate paleontology. Ms. DeBusk's project experience includes residential and commercial developments, transmission lines, pipelines, and power plants. She has worked on projects throughout California as well as Nevada, Colorado, and Virginia with various federal, state, and local agencies such as the BLM, National Park Service, CEC, Caltrans, and various cities and counties.

#### Why Selected?

- More than six years experience in California paleontology.
- Familiarity with large solar power projects.

**Document Support Team**

**Deborah Hollowell, GIS/CAD Mapping Coordinator.** Ms. Hollowell will prepare all of the mapping and graphics for the EIR. As the mapping coordinator in SWCA’s San Luis Obispo office, Ms. Hollowell will be responsible for data gathering and compilation, resource map preparation and presentation, and spatial analysis of project impacts. She will also assist in development and analysis of project alternatives. Proficient in AutoCAD and ArcView GIS, she routinely evaluates and quantifies project impacts in support of environmental impact reports. With more than 20 years experience in land planning and development design, Ms. Hollowell can quickly evaluate proposed project plans and identify development and construction needs, conflicts, and impacts. Ms. Hollowell served as project manager for preparation of the Coalinga Wastewater Treatment Plant Programmatic EIR. Her recent projects include the GIS mapping of the environmental constraints and characteristics along San Luis Obispo Creek for the waterway management program and Programmatic EIR/EIS, the GIS mapping of the biological and environmental constraints along the Bob Jones bike path, and graphics for numerous EIRs. With her background in biology and wildlife, Ms. Hollowell brings a thorough understanding of project development balanced with natural resources and environmental issues to the SWCA team.

**Why Selected?**

- Experience with wastewater treatment projects in Paso Robles, Camarillo, Pismo Beach, and Coalinga.
- More than 20 years experience in San Luis Obispo County analyzing land development and civil engineering projects.
- Experience coordinating mapping data with sub-consultants and project proponents.

**Jaimie Jones, Technical Editor.** Ms. Jones will prepare the Notice of Preparation and Mitigation Monitoring Program for the EIR and will assist with EIR compilation and technical editing. Ms. Jones has over four years of professional experience in environmental planning with an emphasis on environmental document coordination and preparation. She has been involved in the facilitation of public scoping meetings and assisting with the preparation of environmental documents. As Technical Editor, Ms. Jones has overseen document quality control, consistency, and compilation of more than fifty environmental reports, including environmental impact reports, mitigated negative declarations, and a variety of biological studies. Ms. Jones generates mapping and graphics materials for a variety of planning staff reports, presentations, environmental documents, and reports. She has experience preparing MNDs, as well as various EIR sections, including Cultural Resources, Geology, and Soils. Her recent projects include technical editing of the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster EIR, County Service Area 7 (Oak Shores) Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, Cold Canyon Landfill Expansion EIR, and Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Master Plan EIR, as well preparing a number of MNDs for projects in north and south San Luis Obispo County. One of Ms. Jones’ EIRs, the Halcyon Road Projects Master EIR, won an award from the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) for “Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document” in 2007. Ms. Jones’ abilities in facilitating and compiling a wide range of environmental documents and technical studies make her an asset to the project team and her excellent skills in both coordinating and organizing projects will assure a quality environmental document.

**Why Selected?**

- Over four years experience preparing environmental documents in San Luis Obispo County.
- Qualified technical editor for award winning EIRs.

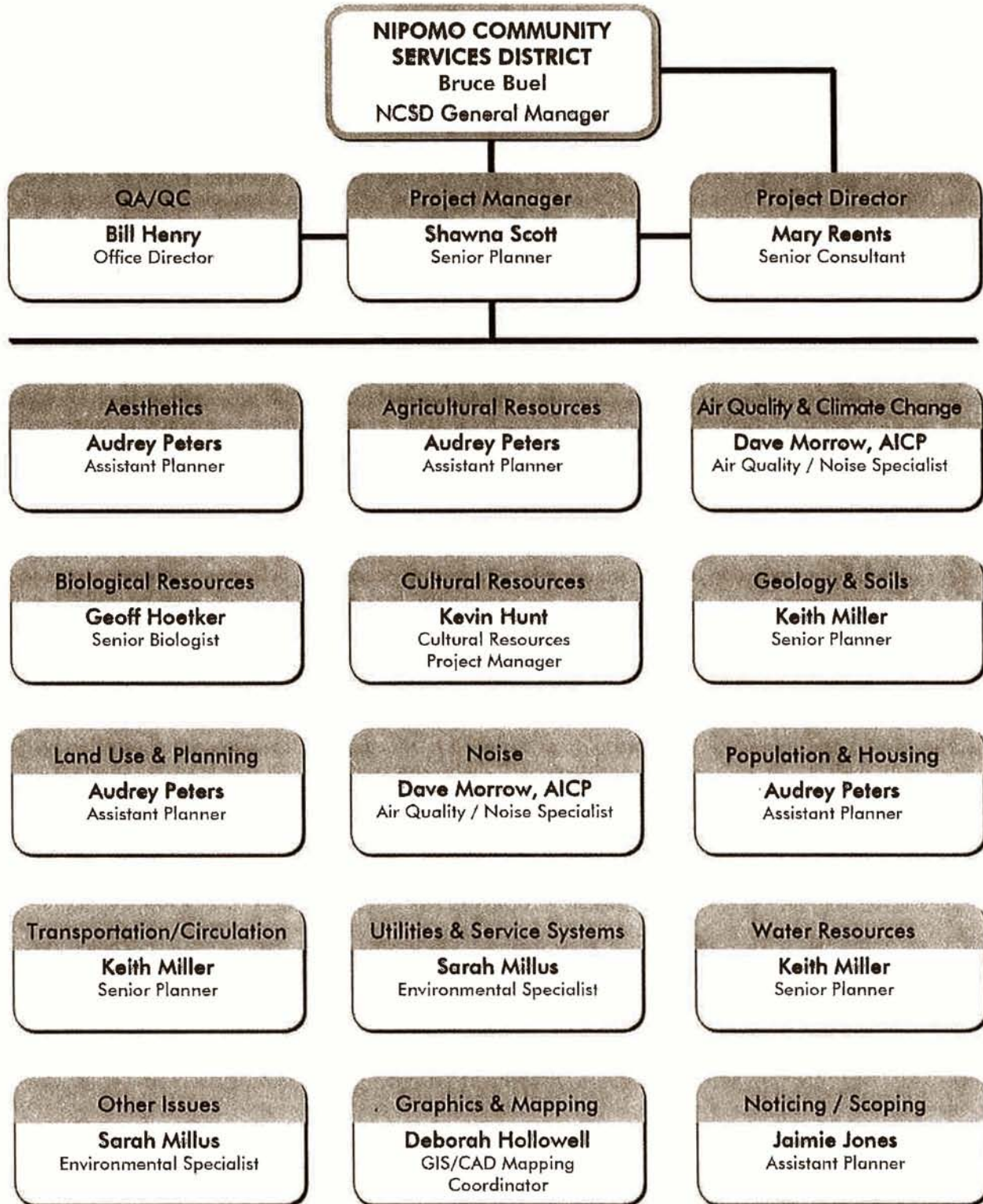


Figure 2. Project Team Organization

## Coordination

### *Project Team Coordination*

SWCA proposes a chain of command that will entail all SWCA communications running through Ms. Mary Reents, Project Manager, and going directly to the County's Project Manager, Mr. John McKenzie. All issues at the project team level will be synthesized by Ms. Reents and forwarded, verbally or otherwise, to the County Project Manager throughout the various project management tasks outlined in the EIR scope of work. Bill Henry is Office Director for SWCA San Luis Obispo and will ensure adequate staff resources are available for timely preparation of the EIR. He will also participate in any complex discussions or the solving of challenging issues that come-up during SWCA's partnering with the County.

SWCA has extensive experience organizing and managing multidisciplinary teams and understands the importance of ensuring team coordination and cooperation throughout the environmental review process. SWCA has obtained extensive experience working with sub-consultants over our 20+ years of experience writing EIRs for the County. Over the course of this experience, we have learned to choose quality team members with whom we have strong working histories. Sub-consultants for this project have been chosen based on past performance history. Only those who continually meet deadlines in a timely manner and perform tasks with the highest levels of competency and integrity have been selected to assist in the preparation of the SunPower Solar Ranch Conditional Use Permit EIR. Potential issues arising from work with sub-consultants will be dealt with immediately by SWCA, as a method to completely avoid additional costs of time or money to the County.

SWCA's professional reputation helps to assure sub-consultant cooperation. Sub-consultants are aware of SWCA's extensive professional relationship with the County and look to ensure future work with SWCA by performing tasks efficiently and maintaining high quality performance standards.

### *Client Coordination*

Through preparation and implementation of the above-referenced CEQA documents for various public agencies, SWCA has gained an understanding of the need to maintain a close working relationship with agency staff and strives to provide consistent and open communication throughout the process of preparing these documents. SWCA understands that agency staff and management have a vested interest in the final product and are required to defend the content and recommendations found in these documents to decision makers and the public. One aspect of SWCA's philosophy in preparing EIRs involves continually working closely with the County with respect to potentially critical CEQA issues that are identified at any point in the document preparation process.

SWCA will utilize the results of previous environmental documents (e.g., Expanded Initial Study and associated technical reports) to assist in project analysis and the determination of impact significance. If during the review of existing information SWCA identifies that the Expanded Initial Study was incorrect in its determination, or information not considered during the Expanded Initial Study indicates another conclusion as to the potential for an impact, or level of significance of an impact, SWCA will contact County staff regarding appropriate changes to the scope of the EIR analysis.

## **Wastewater Project EIR Experience**

SWCA has prepared a number of environmental documents on wastewater treatment plant projects. In addition to the project information discussed herein, detailed project descriptions are included in the references section and Appendix B, Related Experience. We have conducted biological studies and monitoring for the NCSO on several of their water and wastewater connector replacement projects over the years. Near the community of Nipomo is the City of Pismo Beach, where we prepared the EIR on their wastewater treatment plant expansion in 2005. SWCA also completed the somewhat controversial Oak Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion EIR for the County of San Luis Obispo in 2008. We also

prepared the first EIR on the Los Osos Wastewater treatment plant facility in 1987 as Morro Group, Inc., and we currently are providing the County of San Luis Obispo with technical assistance on the update EIR for the most recent project EIR and program. This is a wastewater project that has gone on for over 20 years due to public controversy over various treatment technologies and cost. SWCA has been consulting for the County and the Los Osos CSD during this entire process, by providing technical support and environmental compliance on project construction of the abandoned wastewater treatment plant project. Our experience over the past 20 years with the various intricacies of wastewater treatment processes in Los Osos and elsewhere will be beneficial to NCSO, because we have demonstrated our ability to work on complex and controversial projects, and we understand the sensitivities of balancing community desires with practical engineering and monetary constraints.

The City of Coalinga retained SWCA to prepare a program EIR for their wastewater treatment plant relocation project, and this program EIR was completed in 2006. It included the plant relocation from a flood plain to agricultural areas, and included a program level evaluation of the potential connector lines, disposal options, and other undefined aspects of the project that were not defined at the time of EIR preparation. The abandonment of the existing treatment facility and connections of existing lines with the new connectors was evaluated from a cumulative standpoint, but it was noted in the program EIR as a subsequent project since the City had not determined connector line routes or abandonment techniques. Using the programmatic approach, the City retained SWCA to prepare a supplemental EIR on the various alternative connector routes; this supplemental EIR tiered off of the program EIR and was certified by the City in February 2009. The City of Coalinga has been pleased with the environmental review process on this facility because we have been able to reduce the costs associated with the environmental processes, we have set up a program EIR that can be used for tiering subsequent projects, and we have been sensitive to the city's need for sound environmental information by which to plan infrastructure needs. The information has been used for a variety of projects and this flexibility reduces redundancy in environmental documentation required by various permitting agencies and thereby reduces costs.

### **Related EIR Experience**

SWCA has been performing environmental work in San Luis Obispo County since 1984. Several examples of recent EIRs and other related environmental documents prepared by SWCA and their sub-consultants are listed below and more detailed information is included in Appendix B. Additional Statement of Qualifications information is available upon request. These projects highlight our experience and familiarity with environmental documents and resource issues throughout the region:

- Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade CEQA-Plus Services
- Tank Farm Gravity Sewer, Lift Station, and Force Main Project ExIS/MND
- Halcyon Road Projects Master EIR
- Nipomo Community Park Projects
- Growth Management Ordinance (Title 26) Amendments Final EIR
- Craig/LMUUSD LUO Amendment Final EIR

### **Project Success**

SWCA has demonstrated project success for its clients, as evidenced by the continuing use of our services throughout the life of the San Luis Obispo office. It is our policy to ensure that the scopes of work and budgets that are prepared for the client are realistic in order to reduce the need for change orders, duplication of effort, wasted time in project preparation; we are proud of our ability to keep projects within the time frame, scope and budget. This is accomplished through effective communication with the client and stakeholders, thorough understanding of the scope both by the project team and the client, and good project management. We will use our well developed management skills on this project and we commit to providing excellent service in a timely manner consistent with the scope of work indicated in the RFP. We recommend you contact our references since they are the best source of SWCA's successful project management and quality control.

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## COST ESTIMATE

### Quote Form

The completed Quote Form has been included as a separate document and has been executed by Bill Henry, SWCA San Luis Obispo Office Director, a principal authorized to represent SWCA. SWCA understands that the Not to Exceed Expenditure Limit submitted on this Quote Form shall be used as the Not to Exceed Expenditure Limit for the agreement.

### Statement of Offer and Signatures

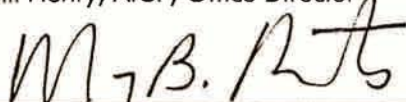
Bill Henry, SWCA San Luis Obispo's Office Director, and Mary B. Reents, Senior Consultant and Project Manager, provide the following signatures so as to bind the offer set-forth in this proposal for a period of 90 days. SWCA also agrees that all work associated with the tasks outlined in this proposal will be performed at a not-to-exceed price.



Bill Henry, AICP, Office Director

March 17, 2009

Date



Mary B. Reents, Senior Consultant and Project Director

March 17, 2009

Date

### Fees and Charges

The cost to prepare the EIR document is shown in detail in Table 3, Cost Estimate, on page 51. Analysis of the issues outlined in the above Scope of Work and preparation of the EIR, will be performed for a time and materials, not to exceed, cost of \$132,449. Table 4, page 53, contains an optional task budget of \$7,020 for an NOP public scoping meeting and a Jurisdictional Waters Assessment.



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**TABLE 4. Optional Tasks Cost Estimate**

		Project Director / QA/QC	Project Manager	Senior Planner	Environmental Specialist	Assistant Planner	Senior Biologist	Associate Biologist	Air Quality and Noise Specialist	GIS/RS Specialist	Administrative/Clerical	SWCA Labor Total	SWCA Reimbursables	SWCA Cultural Resources	TOTAL
		Hourly Rate	\$150	\$115	\$115	\$85	\$75	\$105	\$75	\$135	\$105	\$65			
<b>Optional Task 1: NOP Scoping Public Meeting</b>															
1.1	Preparation for and Attendance at NOP Scoping Public Meeting (1 @ 6 hours)		6			6						\$1,140			\$1,140
	<i>Subtotal for Task 8.0</i>	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	\$1,140	\$0	\$0	\$1,140
<b>Optional Task 2: Jurisdictional Waters Assessment</b>															
2.1	Field Surveys						10			2		\$1,260			\$1,260
2.2	Report Preparation						30			14		\$4,620			\$4,620
	<i>Subtotal for Task 9.0</i>	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	16	0	\$5,880	\$0	\$0	\$5,880
<b>HOURS AND BUDGET (OPTIONAL TASKS) TOTAL</b>															<b>\$7,020</b>

**TABLE 3. EIR Preparation Cost Estimate**

		Project Director / QA/QC	Project Manager	Senior Planner	Environmental Specialist	Assistant Planner	Senior Biologist	Associate Biologist	Air Quality & Noise Specialist	GIS/RS Specialist	Administrative/Clerical	SWCA Labor Total	SWCA Reimbursables	SWCA Cultural Resources	TOTAL
Hourly Rate		\$150	\$115	\$115	\$85	\$75	\$105	\$75	\$135	\$105	\$65				
<b>Task 4.0 Response to Comments and Administrative Final EIR Preparation</b>															
4.1	Admin Final EIR / Response to Public Comments	4	26			8	4		4	4		\$5,570	\$38		\$5,608
4.2	Incorporation of NCSD Revisions to AFEIR / RTC		12			8				2		\$2,190			\$2,190
4.4	Reproduce Admin Final EIR (10 @ \$85/copy)										2	\$130	\$850		\$980
Subtotal for Task 4.0		4	38	0	0	16	4	0	4	6	2	\$7,890	\$888	\$0	\$8,778
<b>Task 5.0 CEQA Findings</b>															
5.1	Prepare and reproduce Draft CEQA Findings (10 copies @ \$3.75/copy)	4	36									\$4,740	\$38		\$4,778
5.2	Incorporation of NCSD Revisions to Findings		8									\$920			\$920
Subtotal for Task 5.0		4	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$5,660	\$38	\$0	\$5,698
<b>Task 6.0 Final EIR Preparation</b>															
6.1	Compile Final EIR for Distribution		4								8	\$980			\$980
6.2	Reproduce Final EIR (30 @ \$85/copy)											\$0	\$2,550		\$2,550
6.3	Reproduce Final EIR CDs (30 @ \$10/copy)											\$0	\$300		\$300
6.4	Reproduce Final CEQA Findings (30 @ \$3.75/copy)											\$0	\$113		\$113
6.5	Reproduce Draft and Final EIRs in original format (2 CDs @ \$10/copy)										1	\$65	\$20		\$85
Subtotal for Task 6.0		0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	\$1,045	\$2,983	\$0	\$4,028
<b>Task 7.0 Meetings, Hearings, and Presentations</b>															
7.1	Staff Meetings (6 @ 2 hours/meeting)	2	12									\$1,680			\$1,680
7.2	Preparation for and Attendance at Staff Scoping Meetings (2 @ 4 hours/meeting)		8									\$920			\$920
7.3	Preparation for and Attendance at Public Hearings (2 @ 6 hours/meeting)	12	12									\$3,180			\$3,180
Subtotal for Task 7.0		14	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$5,780	\$0	\$0	\$5,780
<b>HOURS AND BUDGET (TIME AND MATERIALS) TOTAL</b>															<b>\$132,449</b>

**TABLE 3. EIR Preparation Cost Estimate**

		Project Director / QA/QC	Project Manager	Senior Planner	Environmental Specialist	Assistant Planner	Senior Biologist	Associate Biologist	Air Quality & Noise Specialist	GIS/RS Specialist	Administrative/Clerical	SWCA Labor Total	SWCA Reimbursables	SWCA Cultural Resources	TOTAL
	Hourly Rate	\$150	\$115	\$115	\$85	\$75	\$105	\$75	\$135	\$105	\$65				
<b>Task 1.0 Project Start-Up and Management</b>															
1.1	Project Start-up (Includes field visit)		8			8						\$1,520			\$1,520
1.2	Project Manager (Staff interface, progress reports, team management)		40									\$4,600			\$4,600
1.3	Quality Control/Quality Assurance (All Tasks)		24									\$3,600			\$3,600
	Subtotal for Task 1.0	24	48	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	\$9,720	\$0	\$0	\$9,720
<b>Task 2.0 Administrative Draft EIR Preparation</b>															
2.1	Prepare Notice of Preparation					16					4	\$1,460			\$1,460
2.2	Reproduce and Circulate NOP (30 copies @ \$3.75/copy, plus mailing costs)											\$0	\$218		\$218
2.3	NOP responses and Scope Amendments (10 copies \$3.75/copy, assumes 30 pgs)											\$0	\$38		\$38
2.4	Project Description and EIR Outline	2	32							4		\$4,400			\$4,400
2.5	Introduction/Summary		12			8						\$1,980			\$1,980
2.6	Environmental Setting					12				6		\$1,530			\$1,530
2.7	Aesthetics					12				4		\$1,320			\$1,320
2.8	Agricultural Resources			24						6		\$3,390			\$3,390
2.9	Air Quality and Climate Change							40				\$5,400			\$5,400
2.10	Biological Resources						80	32		40		\$15,000			\$15,000
2.11	Cultural Resources											\$0	\$2,065	\$11,846	\$13,911
2.12	Geology and Soils			24						4		\$3,180			\$3,180
2.13	Land Use and Planning					32				6		\$3,030			\$3,030
2.14	Noise								60			\$8,100			\$8,100
2.15	Population and Housing					8						\$600			\$600
2.16	Transportation/Circulation			24						4		\$3,180			\$3,180
2.17	Utilities and Service Systems				6					2		\$720			\$720
2.18	Water Resources			40						2		\$4,810			\$4,810
2.19	Other Issues				24							\$2,040			\$2,040
2.20	Cumulative Issues Review			12						2		\$1,590			\$1,590
2.21	Growth Inducing Impacts/Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes			24								\$2,760			\$2,760
2.22	Alternatives Analysis			32		20				12		\$6,440			\$6,440
2.23	Mitigation and Monitoring Program					32						\$2,400			\$2,400
2.24	Reproduce Admin Draft EIR w/ MMP and Appendices (10 @ \$85/copy)											\$0	\$850		\$850
2.25	Incorporation of NCSA Revisions to ADEIR			24		16	4		4	4		\$5,340			\$5,340
	Subtotal for Task 2.0	2	44	204	30	156	84	32	104	96	4	\$78,670	\$3,170	\$11,846	\$93,686
<b>Task 3.0 Draft EIR Preparation</b>															
3.1	Compile Draft EIR for Distribution			4		8					8	\$1,580			\$1,580
3.2	Reproduce Draft EIR w/ NOC, MMP and Appendices (30 @ \$85/copy)										2	\$130	\$2,550		\$2,680
3.3	Reproduce Draft EIR CDs (50 @ \$10/copy)											\$0	\$500		\$500
	Subtotal for Task 3.0	0	4	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	10	\$1,710	\$3,050	\$0	\$4,760

SOUTHLAND PROPOSAL RANKING SHEET				
CATEGORY	Pt. Range	DWA	FIRMS RINCON	SWCA
RFP Responsiveness	0 to 25	20	15	20
Work Product Time	0 to 10	10	10	10
Team Qual/Exp	0 to 20	20	20	20
Prior Experience	0 to 20	20	20	20
Cost	0 to 25	25	20	5
Total	0 to 100	95	85	75
Cost		85,560	86,577+	132,449+

REVIEW CRITERIA

CATEGORY	POINT RANGE
Responsiveness to RFP	0 to 25
Understands Problem	
Proposes Creative Solutions	
Addresses Each Required Task	
Alternative Proposed	
Objections/Resolution re Agreement	
Work product timeliness	0 to 10
Reasonableness	
Team qualifications and expertise	0 to 20
Quality of Team Leader	
Quality of Support Team	
Emphasis on Pond Technology	
Prior experience similar services	0 to 20
Similar Calif Local Government	
Emphasis on Pond Technology	
Coordination with CC RWQCB	
Cost	0 to 25
Value for Proposed \$	