NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

WATERLINE INTERTIE

INITIAL STUDY

Prepared for:

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
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I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

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

provide complete and adequate CEQA coverage for all actions associated with the proposed project.

Section III. Project Description provides a detailed description of the proposed NCSD Waterline Intertie. Section IV. Environmental Setting provides an overview description of existing environmental conditions within and in the vicinity of the project area.

Section V. Environmental Evaluation contains the environmental checklist required by Section 15063(d)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines. This checklist is intended to determine the nature and extent of various environmental effects of the proposed project followed by an explanation to justify the determination. Checklist items identified as "potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated" are discussed in greater detail. In many instances, project impacts are identified as "no impact" or "less than significant impact." The summary discussion following the checklist item provides the basis for these determinations. Section VI. Environmental Determination makes the final determination as to whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report is appropriate. Section VII. Certification provides the required Lead Agency Certification Statement.

Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines permits an environmental document to incorporate by reference other documents that provide relevant data to the proposal currently being considered. The South County General Plan and other long-range planning documents prepared by the State Department of Water Resources, the County of San Luis Obispo as well as documents prepared by or on behalf of the Nipomo Community Services District are hereby incorporated by reference. Pertinent material from these documents is summarized throughout this Initial Study where information from these documents is relevant to the analysis of potential project impacts.

This Initial Study provides a full and objective discussion of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed NCSD Waterline Intertie. In preparing this document, the Nipomo Community Services District decision-makers, staff and members of the public will be fully informed as to the potential impacts associated with the proposed project. In accordance with Section 15021 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this document is intended to enable the Nipomo Community Services District, as Lead Agency for this environmental document, to evaluate these environmental impacts in their consideration of the proposed project. The Lead Agency has an obligation to balance possible adverse effects of the project against a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental and social factors, in determining whether the project is acceptable and approved for development.

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code 21082.1, the Nipomo Community Services District has independently reviewed and analyzed the information contained in this Initial Study prior to its consideration and certification. The conclusions and discussions

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

II. SUMMARY

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

A. Project Summary

The proposed project involves connecting to the City of Santa Maria water distribution system and construction of a waterline from Santa Maria to the Nipomo Community Services District water distribution system. The pipeline will be constructed beneath the Santa Maria River by horizontal directional drilling. A pump station(s) and water storage facilities will be constructed to boost the water pressure into the District system and provide water storage as necessary. Several water transmission facilities within the NCSD will replaced and upgraded. A final element of the proposed project involves the conversion of District water supply wells to chloramination treatment in order to provide disinfection within the District's water distribution system. This conversion is required in order to resolve water quality compatibility issues between the different water treatment methods employed by the NCSD (chlorination) and the City of Santa Maria (chloramination). (See Section III. Project Description, for additional details concerning the characteristics of the proposed project.)

B. Impact Summary

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

1. Land Use and Planning
2. Population and Housing
3. Water
4. Biological Resources
5. Aesthetics
6. Cultural Resources
7. Geology
8. Traffic
9. Noise
10. Air Quality
11. Mandatory Findings of Significance

C. Determination

According to Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency, in this case the Nipomo Community Services District, may find that a project may have a significant

impact on the environment and thereby require an EIR to be prepared. It has been determined that the proposed NCSD Waterline Intertie may have a significant effect on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Report is required. This Initial Study has been prepared to focus on the potentially significant impacts, to identify the appropriate environmental documentation and to assist the public and other responsible agencies in their evaluation of the proposed project and its associated environmental impacts.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed NCSD Waterline Intertie project is located at the southern end of the County of San Luis Obispo and the Nipomo Community Services District and extends south across the Santa Maria River to the City of Santa Maria (see Figure 1, Regional Map, Figure 2, Vicinity Map and Figure 3, Aerial Photograph).

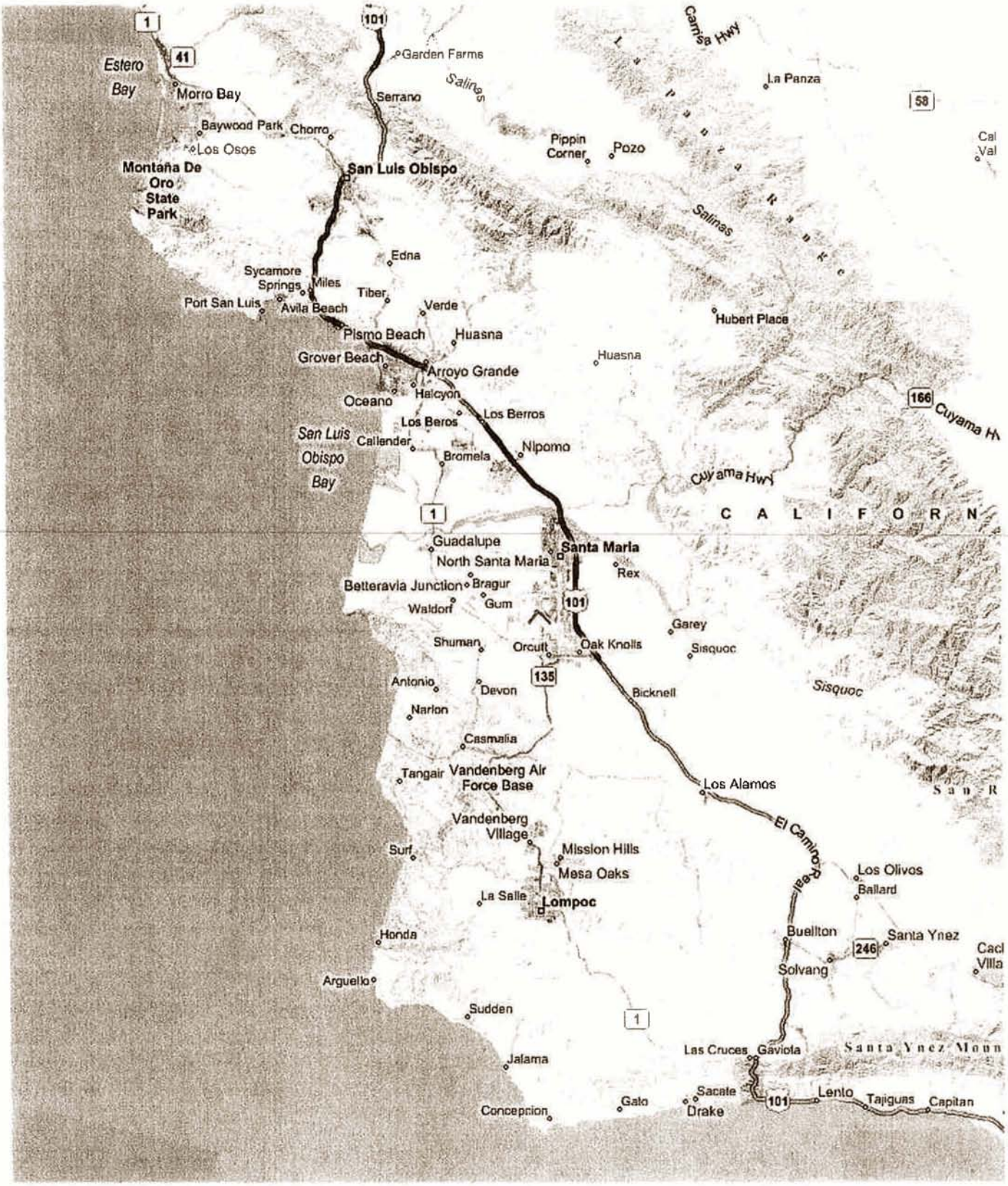
The proposed NCSD waterline intertie originates at the northern end of the City of Santa Maria at the intersection of West Taylor Street and North Blosser Road where a connection will be made to the City of Santa Maria water supply system (see Figure 4, Project Facilities and Phasing). Approximately 5,000 linear feet of 18-inch pipeline will be installed along the east side of Blosser Road using conventional open trench construction. At Atlantic Street, approximately 300 linear feet of 24-inch carrier pipe will be installed inside a 36-inch steel casing which will be placed under the Santa Maria levee at this location. Once the pipeline is constructed beneath the levee, approximately 900 linear feet of 24-inch pipeline will be installed in a north and northwest direction through open trench construction leading to the horizontal directional drilling site.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will then be utilized to install either a 24-inch pipeline within a 36-inch steel casing or direct placement of a 24-inch carrier pipe utilizing underground trenchless technology for approximately 2,500 linear feet in a northwest or southeast direction underneath the riverbed and surfacing at the opposite end of the underground drilling. Drilling operations may originate at either end of the underground drilling path. A pipeline laydown area will be established along Blosser Road near the southern end of the underground drilling. An equipment staging area will be established at the Nipomo Mesa end of the drilling operations. Once the pipeline path is drilled and reaches its destination, the pipeline is pulled through the drilled underground shaft.

At this surface location on the Nipomo Mesa, approximately 2,500 linear feet of 24-inch waterline will be installed using open trench construction to the proposed Pump Station No. 2 and reservoir site adjacent to Joshua Street. In order to increase the capacity of the water transmission system (from 3,000 to 6,200 acre-feet per year), two additional waterlines will be required in Phase III of project construction: 1) either a 18-inch parallel waterline or a 24-inch replacement line in Blosser Road and 2) a 24-inch waterline from Pump Station No. 2 to the Quad Storage Tanks.

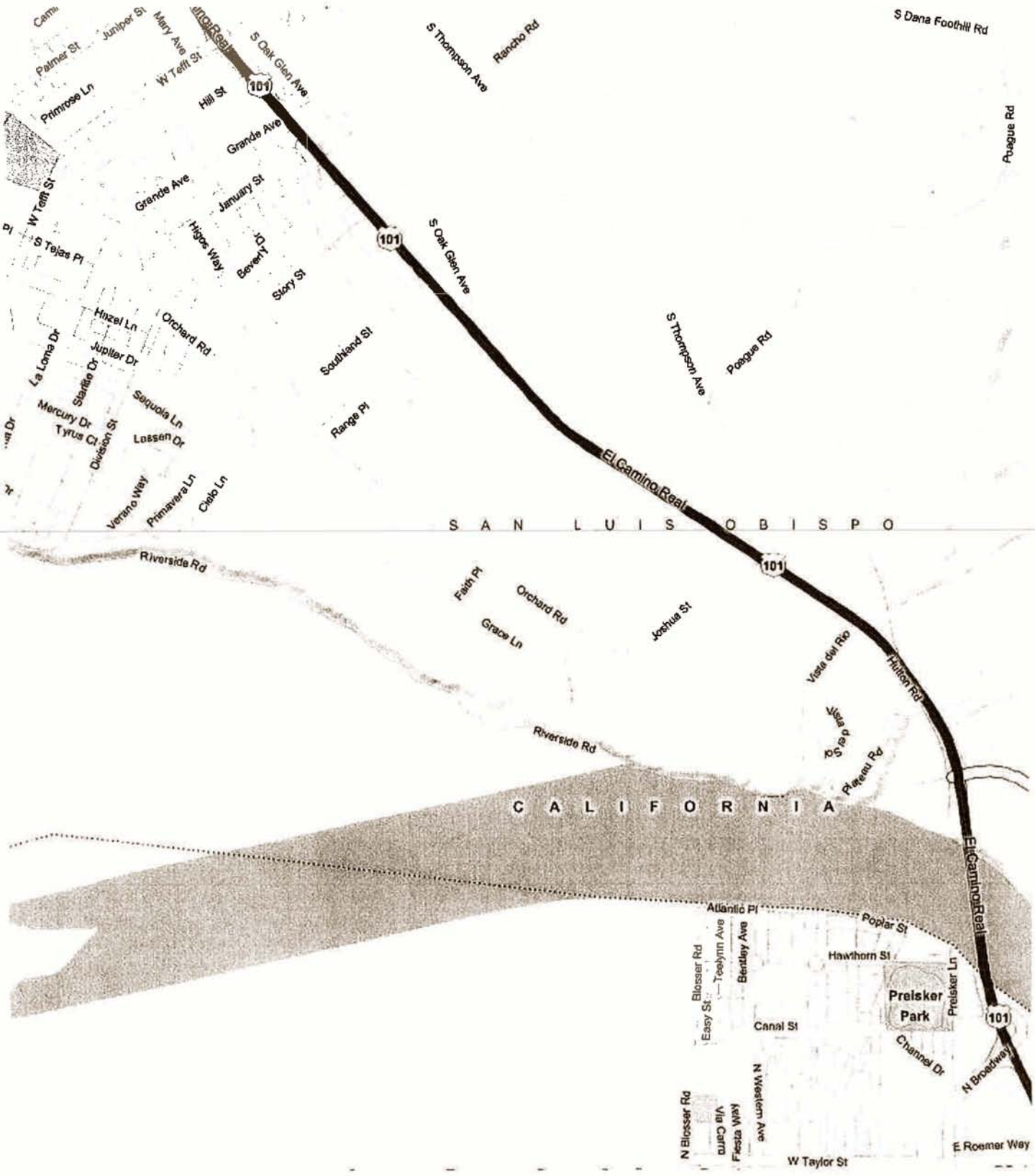
In addition to the pipeline facilities described above, the proposed waterline intertie will require provision of other infrastructure facilities including one 0.5 million gallon storage tank, a maximum of two pump stations, pressure reducing valves and one pressure reducing station as well as metering, electrical controls, instrumentation and communications equipment.

FIGURE 1
Regional Map



NCSD Waterline Intertie

FIGURE 2
Vicinity Map



NCSD Waterline Intertie

FIGURE 3
Aerial Photograph

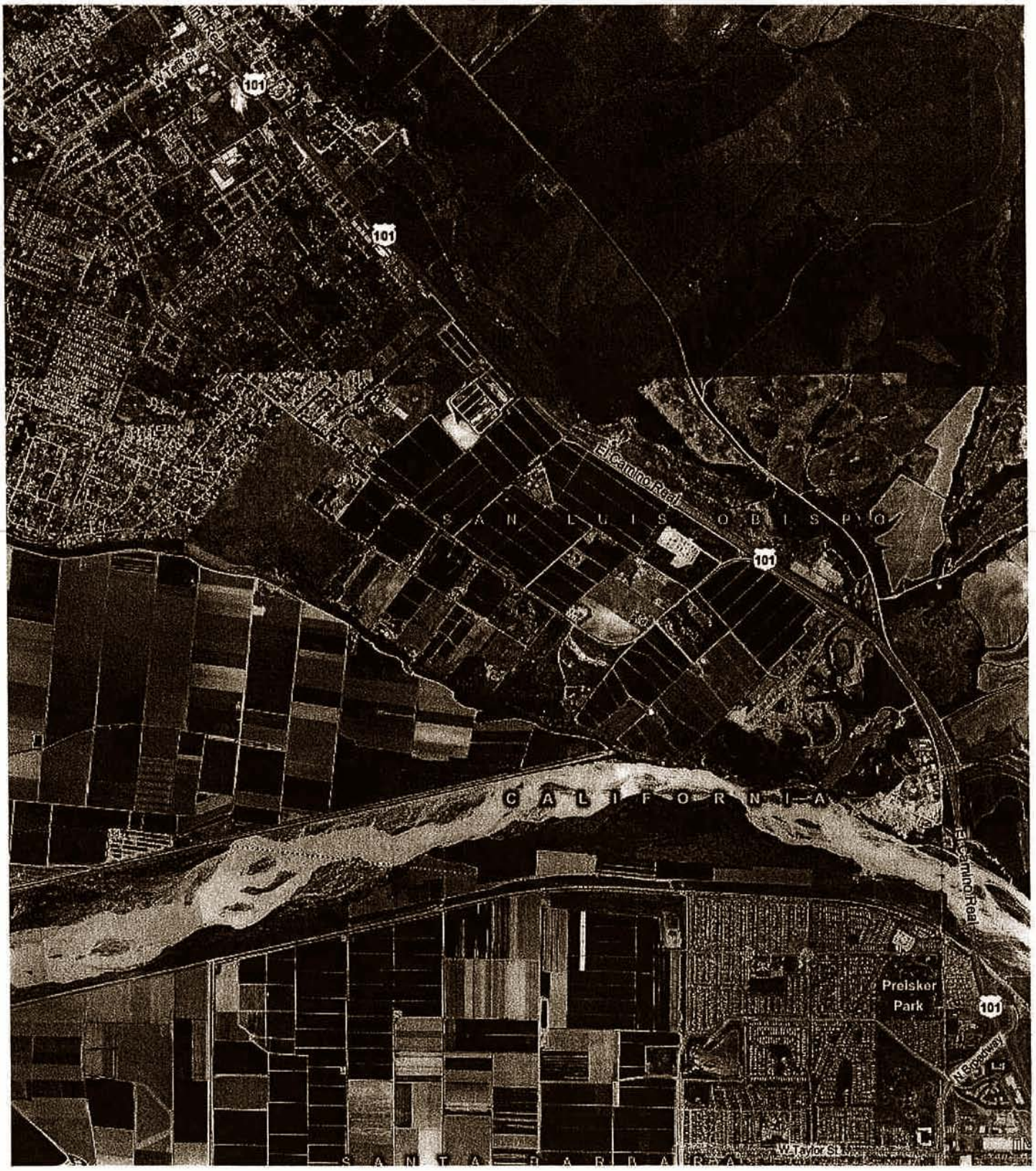
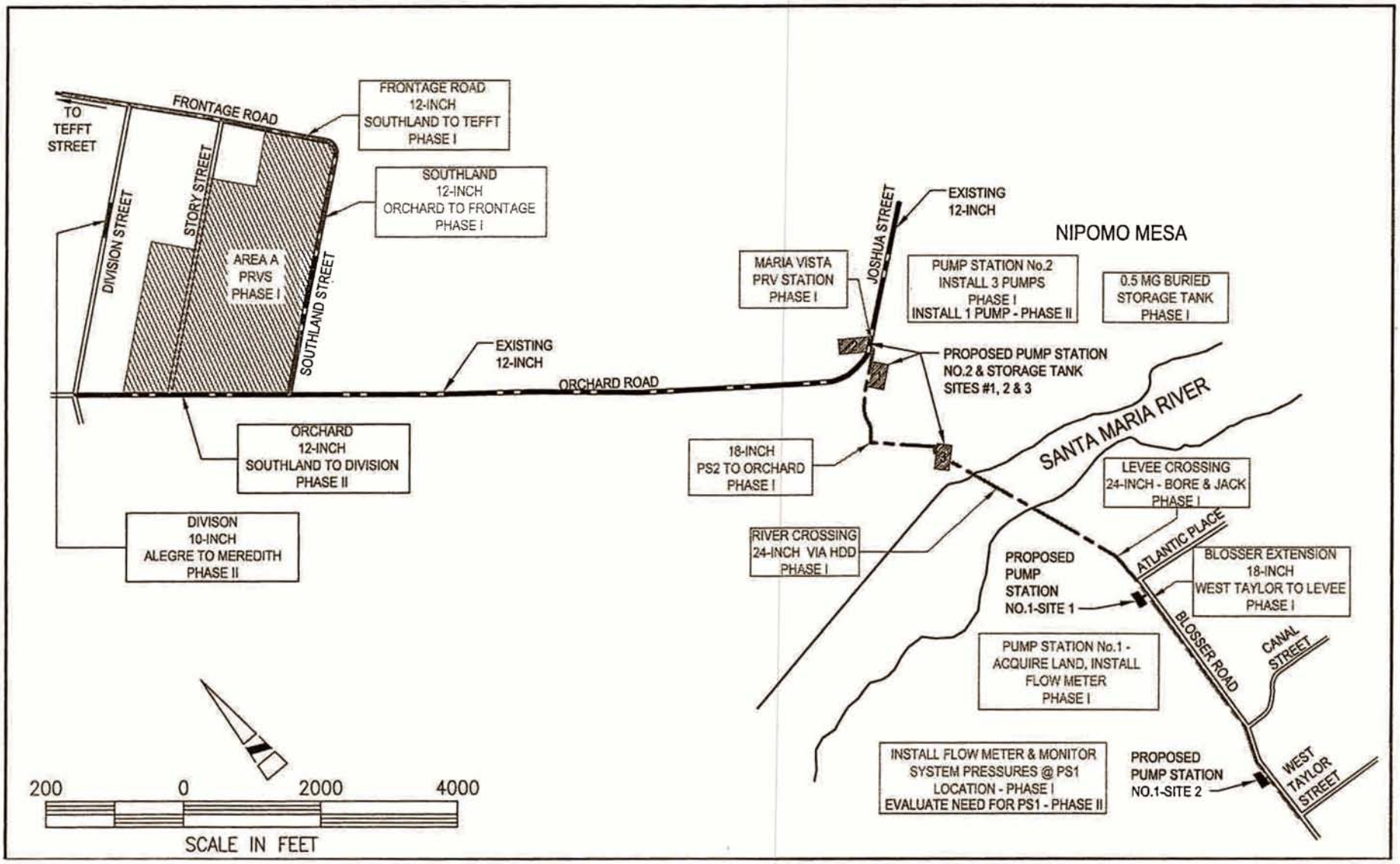


FIGURE 4
Project Facilities and Phasing



As a result of the importation of this supplemental water, several existing water transmission facilities within the Nipomo Community Services District must be replaced and upgraded in order to accommodate increased water volumes and pressures. These facilities include: 1) 10,370 linear feet of 12-inch waterline along Southland Street and South Frontage Road; 2) 3,200 linear feet of upgraded 12-inch waterline in Orchard Road between Southland Street and Division Street and 3) 340 linear feet of upgraded 10-inch waterline in Division Street between Alegre Avenue and Meredith Avenue. (see Figure 4, Project Facilities and Phasing)

The proposed project will be developed within three phases. Phase I involves development of project facilities adequate to provide an additional supplemental water supply totaling approximately 2,000 acre-feet per year. Phase II involves provision of additional facilities in order to provide an increase of 500 to 1,000 acre-feet per year to a total of 2,500 to 3,000 acre-feet per year. Phases I and II may be combined. The final project phase will result in the development of the remaining project facilities which would provide an ultimate total of 6,200 acre-feet per year which represents the system capacity of the proposed pipelines and infrastructure. (see Figure 4, Project Facilities and Phasing)

The importation of water from the City of Santa Maria water system creates water quality compatibility issues since the Nipomo Community Services District currently employs chlorination water treatment in order to provide disinfection within the District's water distribution system while the City of Santa Maria utilizes chloramination to boost chloramine levels in their blended groundwater and imported State Water supplies. The proposed change in the method of water treatment employed by NCSD, from chlorination to chloramination, will require the introduction of ammonia at District wells and increased chemical introduction capacity i.e. larger chlorine solution tanks and chemical feed pumps. Each well will also require online monitoring equipment to provide dosage control and a building to house solution tanks and pumps. Maintaining a chloramine residual in the NCSD water supply will, according to the project engineer, result in the lowest potential for formation of disinfection by-products (DBP's) and the fewest water quality problems in the water distribution system. In addition, the District will see a reduction in customer complaints related to taste and odor. However, this change in treatment method may affect certain aquatic pet species and reptiles, users of ultra pure water, kidney dialysis patients and chloramine sensitive manufacturing processes. Monitoring and public awareness programs will be required.

Prior to construction of the proposed waterline intertie, the Nipomo Community Services District will require authorization from landowners and other entities for access and long-term maintenance of proposed project facilities. Encroachment permits may also be required for trenching of new pipelines in order to install new pipelines adjacent to or within public or private roadways.

The importation of a maximum of 6,200 acre-feet of water per year is intended to accomplish several objectives. Approximately 2,500 acre-feet per year is estimated to be necessary to avoid further depletion and assist in balancing of groundwater levels of the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA). The Phase I increment of 2,000 acre-feet per year of this total will be used to augment water supplies available to the existing customers of the Nipomo Community Services District thereby replacing/reducing groundwater pumping of the NMMA by that amount. While this first (Phase I) increment of supplemental water will be used entirely by the NCSD, three local water purveyors may contribute funds for the purchase of a portion of this Phase I water supply. In accordance with the Court-approved Settlement Agreement and Judgment related to the future management of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, the Woodlands development has agreed to contribute funds equal to the cost for provision of up to 418 acre-feet per year. Both the Golden State Water Company and Rural Water Company have the option to contribute funds equal to 208 acre-feet per year or find an alternate source of water supply. Participation of the latter two water purveyors is currently the subject of negotiations with the NCSD. While these entities will continue to pump groundwater from the NMMA, this funding of a portion of the supplemental water delivery to the NCSD is considered to be the equivalent of in-lieu fees as an offset for their continued pumping of groundwater at their current levels.

The second phase (Phase II) increment of supplemental water will total an additional 1,000 acre-feet per year. Half of this total (500 acre-feet each) will be used for the remaining groundwater replenishment for the NMMA (bringing that total to 2,500 acre-feet per year). The remaining 500 acre-feet per year in the Phase II delivery of supplemental water will be used by the NCSD to serve future customers within the existing NCSD boundaries. The remaining 3,200 acre-feet per year within the third (Phase III) increment of supplemental water will be utilized to serve future development within the Sphere of Influence areas adjacent to the existing NCSD service areas. Based upon a factor of 0.6 acre-foot of water to serve one dwelling unit for one year and deducting 2,500 acre-feet for groundwater replacement, approximately 3,700 acre-feet of these additional water supplies could ultimately serve as many as 6,167 new dwelling units or the equivalent demand from other new non-residential development.

The proposed project involves a series of approvals and discretionary actions by the Nipomo Community Services District including certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report, approval of a Mitigation Monitoring Program and review and approval of detailed plans for pipelines, pump stations, storage and other infrastructure facilities. In addition, the proposed project may require permits from other involved regulatory agencies including: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Permits under the Clean Water Act); California Department of Fish and Game (Public Resources Code Sections 1601-1603 Streambed Alteration Permits); State Water Quality Control Board (NPDES Permit per Section 401 of the Clean Water Act); Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification and General Permit for

Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activities); United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 7 Consultation or Section 10(a) Permit); National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (Section 7 Permit or informal consultation); State Department of Public Health (a new or amended Domestic Water Supply Permit for the introduction of supplemental water into the NCSD system); San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control Districts (an Authority to Construct in order to allow horizontal directional drilling); easements across and adjacent to the Santa Maria River and any necessary construction and/or encroachment permits from the County of San Luis Obispo, the City of Santa Maria or the County of Santa Barbara.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

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

- ***Topography***

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

- ***Geology and Soils***

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

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

- ***Drainage***

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

- ***Biological Resources***

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

Areas on the Nipomo Mesa contain agricultural fields, open grassland vegetation and existing developed areas. Nine vegetative communities occur in the project area including: coyote brush, alluvial scrub, riverbed, California annual grasslands, eucalyptus, agricultural, ruderal, ornamental and developed.

- ***Land Use***

Areas immediately south of the Santa Maria River contain existing residential neighborhoods served by Blosser Road and Atlantic Street. The Santa Maria River bed is vacant however areas to the north of the river contain industrial and commercial land uses, the Santa Maria Raceway, agricultural fields and existing residential development. .

- ***Traffic and Circulation***

Primary access to the project area is provided via State Highway 101. In the project area, Highway 101 is a four-lane freeway served by interchanges at Hutton Road (Highway 166) and Broadway Street. Other regional roadways near the project area are State Highway 1 and State Highway 166. The local circulation system serving the project area include Tefft Street, Southland Street, Orchard Road and Joshua Street on the north side of the Santa Maria River. With the exception of the four lanes on Tefft Street, all of these local roadways are two lane paved roads. On the south side of the Santa Maria River, local roadways include Blosser Road, Presiker Lane and Atlantic Street, all two-lane local roadways, which lead to the four-lane Broadway Street and its interchange at Highway 101.

- ***Noise***

Ambient noise levels in the project area range from the low-30 to mid-60 dBA. Noise sources include traffic on Highway 101, automobile and truck traffic on local roadways, occasional small aircraft and other less obtrusive non-urban noise sources.

- ***Climate***

The climate of the project area can be generally characterized as Mediterranean, with warm, dry summers and cooler, relatively damp winters. Inland areas are characterized by a wide range of temperature conditions. Maximum summertime temperatures generally reach the high 80's and 90's whereas minimum winter temperatures can range down to the low 20's.

- ***Public Resources***

Law enforcement services for the Nipomo area are provided by the County of San Luis Obispo, Sheriff's Department from their Arroyo Grande Substation located at the South Bay Regional Center in Arroyo Grande. Fire protection and emergency response services for the Nipomo area are currently provided by the Cal Fire / San Luis Obispo County Fire Department. The Nipomo Station 20, located at 450 Pioneer Street in Nipomo (at the corner of Oak Glen and Pioneer Streets near Tefft Street), would be the first station to participate in any fire or emergency response to the project area. This station is equipped with two wildland fire engines (used during the dry season), one Schedule A (on-road) fire engine and a CDF bulldozer.

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

south of the Santa Maria River. The station is equipped with one engine and a wildland fire engine.

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

- ***Cultural Resources***

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

V. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

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

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

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

"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures may potentially reduce an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-Than-Significant Impact." Possible mitigation measures are noted where appropriate within the summary discussion immediately following the checklist item. These impacts can be addressed within either an EIR or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:				
	a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	☒	☐	☐	☐
	c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands or impacts from incompatible land uses)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project does not involve any required amendments to the South County Area Plan or any other Elements of the County General Plan and does not require any changes to existing zoning. Although the proposed project would not directly cause a change in zoning or an increase in the intensity of currently-designated land uses, the proposed project could represent a reduction or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development. Any increase in density or change of land use to the South County Area Plan within the areas to be served by the additional water supplies would first require a General Plan Amendment and zone change. A General Plan Amendment would study a variety of land use and environmental issues before being approved or denied including; community character and compatibility, existing land use policies, traffic and circulation impacts, the provision of public services, etc. This process involves significant public involvement and the implementation of CEQA.

Any future development within areas served by the additional water supplies would also require a number of additional approvals including approval of a Specific Plan, Conditional Use Permit or tract map by the County of San Luis Obispo. These future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation (CEQA) to address the potential land use and planning impacts of these future approvals.

b. Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project would not directly conflict with any environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project area. Environmental plans which apply to the project area include the

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

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

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

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

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

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

	in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?				
	c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. No Impact. The proposed project will not directly generate any new population or housing thereby not exceeding any regional or local growth projections.

b. Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project does not directly induce any significant population or housing growth in the area. The proposed project could, however, represent a reduction or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Any increase in residential density beyond that allowed by the South County Area Plan will require a General Plan Amendment and zone change as well as other subsequent approvals by the County of San Luis Obispo. These future discretionary approvals will require preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation (CEQA) to address the potential population and housing impacts of these future approvals.

c. No Impact. The proposed project will not displace any existing housing.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
III.	GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:				
	a) Fault rupture?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	b) Seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	e) Landslides or mudflows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	g) Subsidence of the land?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	h) Expansive soils?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	i) Unique geologic or physical features?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The project area lies outside any fault rupture zones established by the Alquist-Priolo Act of 1972. Should a major earthquake occur in the area, significant groundshaking is expected to occur. Since the project area is not located within the boundaries of a special studies zone and no active faults are known to pass through the area, surface fault rupture in the areas devoted to the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities is considered unlikely. As such, impacts due to fault rupture on the project area are considered to be less than significant.

b. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The San Andreas fault is considered the most likely source of a major earthquake in the region in the near future. Such an earthquake is expected to produce moderate to strong ground shaking within the project area. The application of standard construction techniques contained in the Uniform Building Code to the proposed project facilities will reduce potential seismic hazards to less than significant levels.

c. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Due to the seismic and geologic conditions as currently known, the potential for secondary seismic hazards in the project area is considered to be low. The Nipomo Mesa and adjacent coastal areas are underlain by massive sand dune deposits whose thickness ranges from approximately 70 to 80 feet in the project area. Given these conditions, liquefaction potential upon proposed project facilities is considered to be unlikely due to the grain size and density of natural soils and the anticipated compaction of the surficial soils. Potential liquefaction hazards are, therefore, considered to be less than significant.

d. No Impact. Tsunamis and seiches do not pose hazards due to the inland location and lack of bodies of standing water in the project area. The Santa Maria River represents an intermittent water body with a shallow depth that does not pose a hazard to proposed project facilities. No areas of known volcanic activity are in proximity to the project area. No impacts regarding seiches, tsunamis or volcanic hazards have been identified.

e. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Landslides within undeveloped portions of the project area are not considered to be likely due to the level to gently sloping topographic conditions. The proposed underground directional drilling will be well below the bluffs on the north side of the Santa Maria River so as not to create a potential landslide hazard. The proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities generally occur in areas of nearly level terrain thereby reducing the potential for landslides or mudflows to a less than significant level.

f. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey identifies the potential erodibility of soil types in the project area to be high. While the relatively gentle slopes of the project area reduce

the potential occurrence of significant erosion and sedimentation impacts, construction of proposed project facilities may result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil into the Santa Maria River or other local drainages. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the use of temporary berms, sedimentation traps, detention basins and the revegetation of disturbed soils.

g. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Due to the geologic conditions as currently known, the potential for secondary seismic hazards in the project area is considered to be low. The potential for seismically-induced settlement to impact proposed project facilities is low due to the density of underlying earth materials and the anticipated compaction of near surface soils during the construction of project facilities.

h. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Due to the geologic conditions as currently known, the potential for secondary seismic hazards in the project area is considered to be low. The potential for expansive soils to impact proposed project facilities is low due to the density of underlying earth materials and the anticipated compaction of surface soils during construction of project facilities.

i. No Impact. The area through which the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities occur does not contain any unique or geological features that will be impacted by development of the proposed project.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	WATER. Would the proposal result in:				
	a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	b) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	c) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	d) Changes in currents or the course or direction of water movements?	☐	☐	☐	☒

e) Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawls, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of ground water recharge?	☒	☐	☐	☐
f) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?	☒	☐	☐	☐
g) Impacts to groundwater quality?	☒	☐	☐	☐
h) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Substantiation:

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

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

The proposed project may result in the degradation of surface water quality as a result of the underground directional drilling frac-outs. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the restriction of underground directional drilling to the dry season (April 15 to November 15) when there is little or no flow in the Santa Maria River, the preparation of a geotechnical investigation along the underground drilling route, the monitoring of drilling procedures and the preparation of a Frac-out Monitoring Response and Clean up Plan.

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

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

e. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the withdrawal of ground water or grading that would intercept any groundwater aquifers, thereby not affecting existing groundwater supplies. The proposed project involves the introduction of water into the groundwater basin in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels in the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. This represents a significant but potentially beneficial impact. Since little in the way of impervious surfaces will be created by the proposed project facilities, loss of groundwater recharge is considered less than significant.

f. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the direct withdrawal of groundwater. The direction or rate of flow of groundwater could be altered due to the introduction of additional water into the groundwater basin. Underground drilling is not expected to impact existing groundwater either beneath the Santa Maria River or the Nipomo Mesa.

g. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the direct withdrawal of groundwater. The introduction of water into the groundwater basin could potentially impact groundwater quality.

h. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the direct withdrawal of groundwater which would otherwise be available for public use. The proposed project involves the importation of water in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels, to serve new development within the current service boundaries of the Nipomo Community Services District and its Sphere of Influence pursuant to the South County Area Plan and to indirectly provide additional water supplies to other water purveyors who overlie the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. The EIR will also analyze the impacts of the proposed project on the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
V.	AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:				
	a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	c) Alter air movement, moisture or temperature or cause any change in climate?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	d) Create objectionable odors?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Substantiation:

a. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Temporary air quality impacts will result from project construction activities. Air pollutants will be emitted by construction equipment and fugitive dust will be generated during grading required for the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities. Given the relatively small amount of area disturbed by project development, the air pollutant emissions generated during grading are expected to be below the APCD significance thresholds. However, several mitigation measures including the use of watertrucks and sprinkler systems, spraying of dirt stockpiles, planting of exposed ground areas, restriction of construction vehicle speed and street sweeping may be required to reduce grading-related project emissions to an acceptable level. Other phases of project construction will generate emissions for which mitigation measures related to the proper use of construction equipment may be required. Since traffic in the project area will not be significantly impacted, the potential for local air quality impacts (i.e. air pollutant concentrations near intersections) will also be less than significant.

A Greenhouse Gas Assessment may also be necessary. Within this assessment, the existing emission inventories will be identified and the amount of greenhouse gas pollutants generated by the proposed project and both short-term construction emissions and long-term project emissions will be calculated. Since there are no standards or significance thresholds established by the involved Air Pollution Control Districts or the California Air Quality Resources Board, significant impacts cannot be established. Certain mitigation measures available to the NCSD, as Lead Agency, can, however be identified.

b. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Given the lack of significant short- or long-term air pollutant generation associated with the proposed project, the potential for exposure of sensitive receptors to air pollutants is considered to be less than significant.

c. No Impact. The proposed project will not alter air movement, moisture, temperature or cause a change in climate.

d. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed project will not create objectionable odors that would significantly impact adjacent properties. Localized odors associated with major project construction activities will be confined to construction areas which are located well away from existing residential uses.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VI.	TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal result in:				
	a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities will generate a minor amount of traffic during construction activities. The traffic generated by project construction activities will involve automobile trips associated with worker commutes, haul trucks and construction equipment. These potential traffic and circulation impacts are considered to be short-term. Traffic flows will not be affected by the long-term operation of project facilities. However, project construction activities may result in the diversion

of traffic creating short-term traffic congestion. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the provision of adequate signage, barriers or flagmen to insure safe diversion of traffic.

b. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* Project construction activities may result in the short-term diversion of automobile traffic on certain local roadways, particularly Blosser Road in Santa Maria and Joshua Street, Orchard Road, Division Street, Southland Street and South Frontage Road in Nipomo, as well as the possible diversion of farm equipment from adjacent agricultural farmlands. These potential impacts which represent a hazard to existing automobile traffic or to the ongoing use of farm equipment in adjacent areas can be mitigated through the provision of adequate signage, barriers or flagmen to insure the safe diversion of existing traffic and farm equipment.

c. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* Project construction activities will not block or impede emergency access but may temporarily impede access to adjacent properties. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the provision of adequate signage or flagmen to insure access to properties adjacent to roadways subject to project construction activities.

d. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The proposed project may result in the temporary loss of available parking on roadways subject to project construction activities. This loss of parking is considered to be short-term and less than significant.

e. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The proposed project may result in the temporary blockage of pedestrian and bicycle routes on roadways which are subject to project construction activities. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the provision of adequate signage, barriers or flagmen to insure the safe diversion of pedestrians and bicyclists.

f. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not conflict with any adopted alternative transportation polices.

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

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

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

Substantiation:

a. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities generally occur in areas lacking significant or sensitive biological resources. Nine vegetative communities occur in the project area including: coyote brush, alluvial scrub, riverbed, California annual grasslands, eucalyptus, agricultural, ruderal, ornamental and developed. Areas on the Nipomo Mesa contain agricultural fields, open grassland vegetation and existing developed areas.

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

Several special-status plant and wildlife species could be potentially impacted by project construction activities. According to the field biologist, a total of seven special-status plant species have a potential, however low, to occur within the project area. These include the Straight-awned spineflower, La Graciosa thistle, Nipomo Mesa lupine, Kellog's horkelia, Crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, Blockman's ragwort and San Bernadino aster. Only one special-status plant species, Blochman's ragwort, was observed during the February, 2008 field surveys of the project area.

Based upon the presence of suitable habitat, several special-status wildlife species occur in the region and have a potential for occurrence in the project area: Monarch butterfly, Arroyo chub, Steelhead trout, Coast horned lizard, Southwestern pond turtle, Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, Western spadefoot, Burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk, Least Bell's vireo, Loggerhead shrike, Sharp-shinned hawk, Yellow warbler, White-tailed kite, Tricolored blackbird, Pallid bat and American badger.

b. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The proposed project may impact large trees throughout the area which may represent potential habitat for the Monarch Butterfly or nesting raptors. Avoidance of these areas may be required in order to reduce these potential impacts.

c. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project may impact natural communities adjacent to the Santa Maria River which are considered sensitive or may contain sensitive plant or animal species. Four sensitive plant communities are known to occur within the region (central dune scrub, central foredunes, coastal and valley freshwater marsh and southern vernal pool).

d. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project involves construction adjacent to and within the Santa Maria River, which is defined as being part of the "waters of the United States" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Nipomo Creek, a stormwater channel near Blosser Road and two agricultural ponds have been observed in the project area to contain the California red-legged frog, a Federally-listed Threatened Species.

e. *Less Than Significant Impact.* Given the relatively small amount of area disturbed by project construction which are primarily located adjacent to existing development and roadways, existing wildlife dispersal or migration corridors will not be significantly impacted.

f. *No Impact.* The proposed project does not conflict with any adopted conservation or wildlife management plans.

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

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

Substantiation:

a. No Impact. The proposed project will conform with all applicable State and local energy conservation requirements enforced by the Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara as well as the Nipomo Community Services District. No impacts regarding any conflict with adopted energy conservation programs have been identified.

b. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Project construction activities will require the use of nonrenewable fuels including diesel fuel and gasoline to operate construction equipment. Operation of project facilities (i.e. energy for pipeline and well pumps and monitoring equipment) will consume relatively small amounts of electricity. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in the use of non-renewable resources in a wasteful or inefficient manner. Impacts upon non-renewable resources are considered less than significant.

c. No Impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project area. The proposed project should have no impact regarding availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
IX.	HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:				
	a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	e) Increased fire hazard in area with flammable brush, grass, or trees?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Substantiation:

a. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Current safety regulations governing the construction of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities will reduce the risk of an accidental explosion or release of hazardous materials to a less than significant level.

b. No Impact. Given the relatively small amount of area disturbed by project construction, the proposed project will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plan.

c. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Current safety regulations governing the construction and operation of the proposed project facilities will reduce the potential for creation of health hazards to a less than significant level.

d. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The construction and operation of the proposed project facilities is not expected to expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards. Project construction is not expected to involve the release of any significant amounts of hazardous materials including oils, pesticides, chemicals or radiation thereby reducing the potential for exposure to health hazards to a less than significant level.

e. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The project will occur in areas of relatively low fire hazard (i.e. agricultural farmlands, residential uses, etc.) and away from areas containing significant flammable vegetation. Safety regulations governing project construction and operations in combination with these relatively low fire hazard conditions reduces potential fire hazards to a less than significant level.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
X.	NOISE. Would the proposal result in:				
	a) Increases in existing noise levels?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Substantiation:

a. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The primary noise source associated with the proposed project which may impact adjacent land uses will be construction noise. Noise resulting from the long-term operation of project facilities is expected to be negligible. Construction noise represents a short-term impact upon ambient noise levels. Noise generating construction equipment includes trucks, graders, back-hoes and bulldozers. Grading and trucking activities typically represent the loudest potential sources of construction noise. Local control of construction hours to daylight hours represent the most effective method of controlling construction noise. The Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara restrict construction activities to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Construction is not allowed on Sundays or holidays. Compliance with this policy as well as the use of proper noise mufflers and, if necessary, the shielding of construction equipment can reduce these potential short-term construction noise impacts.

b. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The County of San Luis Obispo has adopted noise standards of 60 CNEL for exterior land uses and an interior noise standard of 45 CNEL. While construction of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities is not anticipated to create noise levels that exceed these standards, measures related to maintaining an adequate distance between stationary noise sources and existing residences or the use of engine enclosures may be required.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XI.	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:				
	a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	b) Police Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	e) Other governmental services?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. No Impact. The construction and operation of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities is not expected to have impact upon fire protection services currently provided by the Cal Fire / San Luis Obispo County Fire Department on the north side of the Santa Maria River and the City of Santa Maria on the south side of the river.

b. No Impact. The proposed project is not expected to have any impact upon police protection services provided by the County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department on the north side of the Santa Maria River and the City of Santa Maria Police Department on the south side of the river.

c. No Impact. Since the proposed project will not directly generate any school age children, no impacts to schools are anticipated.

d. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed project will have a minor impact upon local roadways due to construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities. Given the relatively small amount of

area devoted to project construction activities, potential impacts upon the maintenance of public facilities are considered to be less than significant.

e. No Impact. The construction and operation of the proposed project will have no effect on any other governmental services.

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

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

Substantiation:

a. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities will require the use of electrical power. This energy demand is not anticipated to be significant and falls within the anticipated service parameters of the involved service providers.

b. No Impact. The proposed project will not involve the use of communications systems.

c. Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project will not directly generate demand for water service. However, the proposed project involves a change in the method of water treatment employed by NCSD from chlorination to chloramination.

This change in treatment method may affect certain aquatic pet species and reptiles, users of ultra pure water, kidney dialysis patients and chloramine sensitive manufacturing processes. Monitoring and public awareness programs will be required in order to address these potentially significant impacts.

d. No Impact. The proposed project will not directly generate demand for wastewater treatment services.

e. Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed pipeline extension and construction of various infrastructure facilities will not result in the addition of impervious surfaces which would significantly increase storm water drainage flows.

f. Less-Than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project will not generate significant amounts of solid waste.

g. Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project involves the introduction of water into the groundwater basin in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels in the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. This represents a significant but potentially beneficial impact. The proposed importation of water will also serve new development within the current service area of the Nipomo Community Services District and its Sphere of Influence pursuant to the South County Area Plan and to indirectly provide additional water supplies to other water purveyors who underlie the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. The EIR will also analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project on the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal:				
a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Create light or glare?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Substantiation:

a. Less-Than-Significant-Impact. Construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities will result in short-term visual impact to views from adjacent roadways and land uses. None of the roadways adjacent to project construction activities have been designated as scenic highways. Any impacts to scenic vistas due to the proposed project are considered to be less than significant.

b. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Construction activities associated with the proposed project will have a short-term visual impact upon adjacent roadways and land uses. The proposed 0.5 million gallon water storage tank will not have a significant visual impact since it will be placed underground. Pump stations may impact views from adjacent areas. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the use of vegetative screening and muted color tones on these structures.

c. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed pump station(s) may include the provision of security lighting which may result in potential light and glare impacts to adjacent areas. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the use of shielded light fixtures which are directed downward and located at the lowest possible level.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:				
	a) Disturb paleontological resources?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b) Disturb archaeological resources?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	c) Affect historical resources?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	☐	☐	☐	☒

e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

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

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

c. Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Although no recorded or observed historical resources exist in the area to be devoted to project facilities, potential impacts to historical resources due to the proposed project may occur. These potential impacts to historical resources can be mitigated through project redesign to insure avoidance of these resources.

d. No Impact. The proposed project is not anticipated to cause any physical changes which could affect unique ethnic cultural values.

e. No Impact. The proposed project is not anticipated to restrict any existing religious or sacred uses.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal:				

a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Affect existing recreational opportunities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Substantiation:

a. No Impact. The proposed project will not directly generate any new population or housing thereby not creating any demand for parks or other recreational facilities.

b. No Impact. The proposed project will not directly generate any new population or housing thereby not impacting any existing recreational opportunities.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects and the effects of probable future projects.)	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

Substantiation:

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

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

The proposed project involves the importation of water in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels, to serve new development within the current service area of the Nipomo Community Services District and its Sphere of Influence pursuant to the South County Area Plan and to indirectly provide additional water supplies to other purveyors who overlie the Nipomo Mesa Management Area.

Although the proposed project would not directly cause a change in zoning or an increase in the intensity of currently-designated land uses, the proposed project could represent a reduction or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development and has the potential to hasten the conversion of areas to more intense urbanized uses over those land uses currently allowed by the South County Area Plan. Any increase in density of change of land use to the South County Area Plan within the area to be served by the additional water supplies would first require a General Plan Amendment and zone change.

Any future development within areas served by the additional water supplies would also require a number of additional approvals including approval of a Specific Plan, Conditional Use Permit or tract map by the County of San Luis Obispo. These future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation (CEQA) to address the potential land use and planning impacts of these future approvals.

c. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project has the potential to foster growth or changes in land uses in areas served by the additional water supplies particularly involving the conversion of agricultural lands. Potential growth-inducement involves a variety of factors including: removal of any impediments to growth such as the extension of roadways or utilities; the creation of development pressures in surrounding areas, particularly existing agricultural lands; growth-inducing impacts upon community services; and the establishment of any precedent-setting effects upon parcels within the South County/Nipomo Mesa area.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	☐
I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in this document have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	☐
I find that the project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	☒
I find that the project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on an earlier analysis. If the effect is a potentially significant impact or potentially significant unless mitigated, an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that need to be addressed.	☐
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including project revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.	☐

Nipomo Community Services District:

Signature _____ Date 6/26/08

Printed Name BRUCE S. BUEL

VII. CERTIFICATION

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

Bruce Buel
General Manager
Nipomo Community Services District