

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BOB LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CITY ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS
REGARDING NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT
DATE: MARCH 16, 2004

Needs: For the City Council to consider making required environmental findings regarding the Nacimiento Water Project.

Facts:

1. On January 6, 2004 the Board of Supervisors of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District took action to certify a Final Environmental Impact Report, made findings of mitigation, and adopted a mitigation monitoring program for the Nacimiento Water Project.
2. As a “Responsible Agency” under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Paso Robles needs to adopt findings that mirror those of the County.
3. Attached and labeled “Exhibit A” is a set of findings that are based on the findings adopted by the County.

Analysis
and

Conclusion: The County is the “Lead Agency” for the Nacimiento Water Project. The City, as a “Responsible Agency”, needs to make environmental findings consistent with those made by the County.

The attached “Exhibit A” is designed to reflect the findings that need to be made by the City of Paso Robles.

Policy

Reference: City support for the Nacimiento Water Project

Fiscal

Impact: Action on the findings has no fiscal implications

Options:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 04-xx making findings regarding the Nacimiento Water Project.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the foregoing option.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ACT (CEQA) REGARDING THE NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT

WHEREAS, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County) is the Lead Agency for the purpose of preparing and adopting documentation regarding the potential environmental impacts of the Nacimiento Water Project; and

WHEREAS, the County has made an Environmental Determination regarding the subject project, certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report, adopting Findings of Mitigation and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Nacimiento Water Project, and

WHEREAS, the subject project will extend through the City of El Paso de Robles (City) and the City is considering participation in receiving water from the subject project; and

WHEREAS, based on the project extending through the City and the City proposing to participate in the project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, the City is required to make its own findings relative to the Final Environmental Impact Report, adopting Findings of Mitigation and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Nacimiento Water Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles that: the City Council, as a Responsible Agency as defined by the California Public Resources Code (CEQA) Section 21069, hereby adopts the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations attached in "Exhibit A – CEQA Findings".

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 16th day of March 2004 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk

NOTE: Any judicial review of this decision must be made within the time set forth in code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

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CITY OF PASO ROBLES
FINDINGS OF MITIGATION AND
ADOPTION OF MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE
NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT

I. Environmental Determination

The City Council of the City of Paso Robles considers and relies on the Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse Number 2001061022 [County Environmental Document Number ED00-060]) for the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) in determining to carry out the Nacimiento Water Project, Raw Water Option. The Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR, the responses to comments on the Draft EIR, a list of persons and agencies commenting on the Draft EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring Program (collectively referred to as the Final EIR). The City Council has received, reviewed, considered and relied on the information contained in the Final EIR, as well as information provided at hearings and submissions of testimony from official participating agencies, the public and other agencies and organizations.

Having received, reviewed and considered the foregoing information, as well as any and all information in the record, the City Council of the City of Paso Robles hereby makes these Findings pursuant to, and in accordance with, Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code, as follows:

II. Project Background

The use of water from Lake Nacimiento has long been recognized as a significant viable element in the County's regional water supply program. Water supply needs were anticipated in 1959 when the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOFCWCD) entered into agreements with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency to appropriate 17,500 afy of water from Lake Nacimiento. NWP was highly ranked in the SLO County Master Water Plan Update as a water supply alternative, second only to the State Water Project (SWP).

A series of studies on the NWP prepared under the direction of the SLO County Public Works Department and reviewed by the SLO County Board of Supervisors indicated that the NWP is a viable water supply project.

In 1992, the SLOFCWCD Board of Supervisors approved the use of 4,830 afy of supplemental water supplies from the SWP for eleven communities. In the EIR prepared to assess the impacts of the SWP, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) estimated that without a supplemental water supply, development extraction of groundwater in SLO County would

exceed dependable water supplies by about 81,000 afy by the year 2035 (DWR 1991). With the exception of the City of San Luis Obispo (which obtains regulated water supplies from Whale Rock as part of the Whale Rock commitment and Salinas Reservoirs) and the Cayucos purveyors who also have entitlements from Whale Rock reservoir, groundwater is the primary source of water for those communities applying to develop the NWP.

On May 5, 1995 the County Environmental Coordinator issued an NOP for an environmental impact report (ED 92-271) on the NWP. The proposed project consisted of two phases (Phases I and II). Phase I included construction and operation of a raw water pipeline system that would deliver untreated Lake Nacimiento water to the several water treatment plants that would be operated by the water purveyors (local treatment plants); this phase also included a stretch of treated water pipeline from the local treatment plants to several purveyors. Phase II included construction of several local water treatment plants, which could be deferred for up to ten years.

In November 1995, the County of San Luis Obispo retained Boyle Engineering Corporation, Carollo Engineers and Ogden Environmental and Energy Services as project manager, engineering consultant and environmental consultant, respectively, to prepare an engineering report and subsequent environmental evaluation for a water pipeline and associated appurtenances in the approved pipeline corridor. The engineering report and environmental document were to evaluate both treated and raw water options for delivering Nacimiento water to the county's purveyors.

On April 3, 1996 a revised NOP was issued based on changes in the project description for the NWP. A draft engineering report, Nacimiento Water Supply Project-Phase II, Draft EIR Preparation Phase Engineering Report by Carollo Engineers (1996 Carollo Draft Report) was prepared, followed by a Nacimiento Water Supply Project Draft EIR by Ogden Environmental and Energy Services (the NWP 1997 EIR).

During a public review of the NWP 1997 EIR several negative comments were brought up in regards to the placement of the pipeline route down Nacimiento Lake Drive, through Vine Street in Paso Robles, and down Main Street in Templeton. These comments largely focused on construction impacts along those roadways. Based on the comments, the County Board of Supervisors directed staff to investigate the feasibility of a new pipeline corridor through Camp Roberts as well as other alternatives and sub-alternatives which were submitted by the public during the EIR review process.

In September 1999, Boyle Engineering Corporation submitted the Nacimiento Water Supply Project, Pipeline Alignment and Profile (the 1999 Boyle Report), covering a revised pipeline alignment corridor. The revised corridor relocated the Lake Nacimiento intake on the north side of the reservoir, continued the pipeline easterly on the north side of the Nacimiento River before crossing the river on Camp Roberts property. The pipeline corridor then continued south-easterly through Camp Roberts, private land and public roads until it crossed to the east side of the Salinas River near Wellsona Road. It then continued south along the east side of the Salinas

River on public roads and private land to the southern end of the City of Atascadero, where it re-crossed the Salinas River to the west side and joined the original route proposed in the 1996 Carollo Draft report.

The 1999 Boyle Engineering Corp. report also located a water treatment plant (WTP), storage facility and pump station on Camp Roberts' property, and a pump station and storage facility in the vicinity of the Salinas River crossing at the south end of the City of Atascadero, and made some suggested route and storage facility site changes in the vicinity of Santa Margarita. The WTP would only be constructed as part of the Treated Water Option, which is not being considered as part of these findings.

In April 2002, Carollo Engineers submitted the Nacimiento Project, EIR Preparation Phase Engineering Report, Updated Draft (2002 Carollo Report). The Carollo Report incorporated the 1999 Boyle Report revised pipeline corridor and provided a detailed description and engineering analysis of elements within the treated and raw water options.

The Final EIR for the Nacimiento Water Project that is the subject of this certification hearing reflects the project as described in the 2002 Carollo Report and is summarized in the following section.

The County of San Luis Obispo distributed a notice of preparation (NOP) for an EIR on June 2, 2001 to federal and state agencies, local responsible and trustee agencies, the State Clearinghouse, organizations, and interested individuals. The comment period for the NOP ended on July 1, 2001.

Distribution of the NOP assisted in the identification and determination of the full range and scope of environmental issues of concern on the proposed project. Relevant environmental issues were included in the EIR. Comments received during the NOP distribution and public scoping meeting process were also addressed in the EIR. The Draft EIR was circulated for public review on July 3, 2003. In compliance with CEQA guidelines, a public review period of more than 45 days was provided for the Draft EIR, with the public comment period ending on September 5, 2003.

A number of community meetings were held in around the county, sponsored by the SLOFCWCD, to discuss the proposed project and potential environmental impacts. These meetings were held in Paso Robles [July 29, 2003], Templeton [August 14, 2003], the City of San Luis Obispo [August 19, 2003] and Atascadero [August 20, 2003].

The contents of the Draft EIR, the response to comments, and any other related attachments including the Mitigation Monitoring Program comprise the Final EIR for the Nacimiento Water Project. That document is incorporated into these findings by reference.

III. Summary Project Description

The EIR for the proposed NWP included two co-equal water delivery options that were evaluated and compared equally throughout the EIR: a Treated Water Option and a Raw Water Option. The proposed project is in response to SLO County's need for future water supplies and to supplement existing groundwater sources. The proposed project would potentially supply up to 16,200¹ acre feet per year (afy) of water to augment the existing water supplies in various communities within SLO County.

The main objective of the proposed project is to provide a reliable supplemental water source for a variety of uses within SLO County by supplementing the local ground and surface water supplies with a new surface water source. The objective is also to increase reliability of water deliveries, to improve water quality and to lessen the extent of future ground water pumping to existing residents and provide sufficient supplies to support planning objectives in various communities of SLO County. The objective of the proposed project is, therefore, to ensure better management of water resources throughout the County.

The SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has a 17,500 afy entitlement from Lake Nacimiento per agreement executed in 1959 with Monterey County. Of this 17,500 afy, 16,200 afy is slated for this project and the remaining 1,300 afy is being reserved for local lakeside use.

Fifteen (15) purveyors submitted their requests for Lake Nacimiento water. Of the 16,200 afy available for the project, 13,575 afy is being requested; the remaining 2,625 afy is considered a County-owned contingency capacity. Table 1 shows each purveyor allocation request and requested peaking factor (percent of extra project capacity requested by the purveyor).

The proposed project includes two co-equal water delivery options that were evaluated and compared throughout the EIR: Treated Water Option and Raw Water Option. Both options include construction of the water intake at Lake Nacimiento, water storage tanks, pump stations and a 64-mile water transmission pipeline. The differences between the options are that the Raw Water Option includes construction and operation of three water discharge facilities, and does not include construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (see Figure 1 for the route of the pipeline and location of the proposed facilities). Construction and operation of these water discharge facilities would be the responsibility of the purveyors benefiting from the water (Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero).

The raw water option was identified as the environmentally superior alternative in the Final EIR and is the project being approved by the Board of Supervisors. These findings identify potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with the proposed NWP Raw Water Option. Should

¹ One acre foot equals 325,853 gallons.

a Treated Water Option be pursued in the future, additional findings would need to be made by the Board.

The various components of the raw water option are summarized in Table 2. The detailed descriptions of the two proposed options are given in Section 2.0 of the Final EIR.

Table 1 Tentative Nacimiento Water Project Allocations

Water Purveyor	Allocation	Peaking Factor	Flow Rate	
	afy	% *	mgd	cfs
San Miguel CSD	610	10	0.60	0.93
Paso Robles City	4,000	30	4.64	7.18
Templeton CSD	250	30	0.29	0.45
Atascadero MWC	3,000	30	3.48	5.38
Santa Margarita Ranch	200	10	0.20	0.30
CSA 23–Santa Margarita	100	30	0.12	0.19
San Luis Obispo City	3,380	10	3.32	5.14
Camp San Luis Obispo	200	10	0.20	0.30
San Luis CUSD–Morro Bay	55	10	0.05	0.08
CSA 10A Cayucos	80	10	0.08	0.12
Lewis Pollard Trust–Cayucos	50	10	0.05	0.08
Morro Rock MWC–Cayucos	30	10	0.03	0.05
CSA 22–Airport Area	890	10	0.87	1.35
Fiero Lane WC–Airport Area	30	10	0.03	0.05
Edna Valley MWC–Airport Area	700	10	0.69	1.06
Subtotal	13,575		15.25	23.59
SLO County (Contingency)	2,625	10	2.57	3.98
Pipeline Total	16,200		17.82	27.57
Reserved for Lakeside use	1,300	NA	NA	NA
Total Allocation	17,500			

Note: * Peaking factor is the percent of extra capacity requested by the purveyors to allow short term flows higher than the average of their yearly allocation. For the purveyors that requested no peaking, 10% has been added to allow for system downtime.

afy =acre feet per year; mgd=million gallons per day; cfs=cubic feet per second; MWC=Mutual Water Company; CSD=Community Services District; CSA=County Service Area; SLO=San Luis Obispo; WC=Water Company; NA=Not Applicable

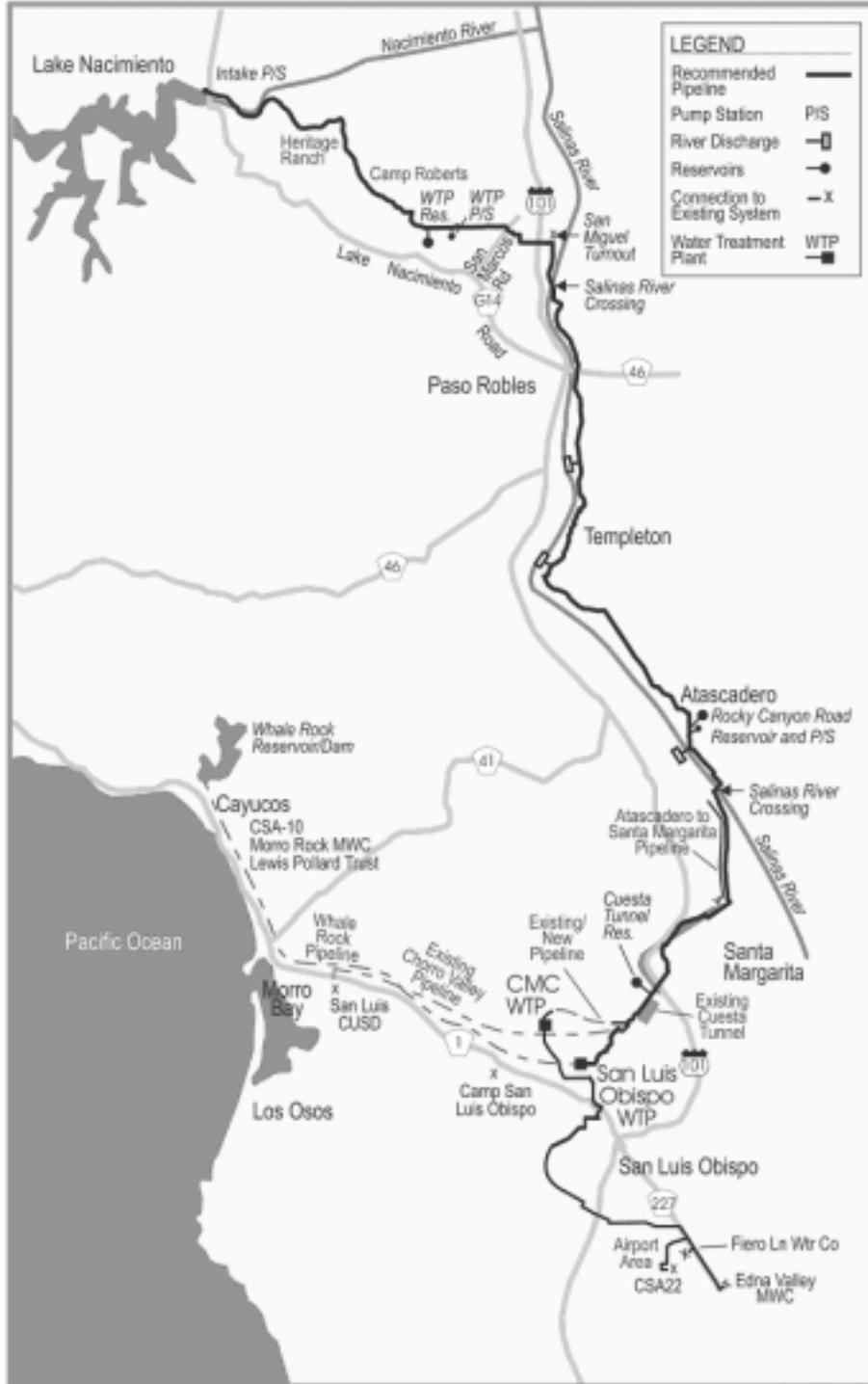
Source: Carollo Engineers, EIR Preparation Phase Engineering Report, April 2002.

Table 2 Project Components as Related to the Raw Water Option

Component	Responsibility
Lake Nacimiento Intake Structure	SLO County
Intake Pump Station	SLO County
Camp Roberts Storage Tank Facility	SLO County
Camp Roberts Pump Station	SLO County
Pipeline	SLO County
Rocky Canyon Storage Tank	SLO County
Happy Valley PS	SLO County
Three Water Discharge Areas	Local Water Purveyors
Cuesta Tunnel Storage Tank	SLO County
Local WTP Upgrades	Local Water Purveyors

Note: PS=pump station; WTP=Water Treatment Plant.

Figure 1 Location of Proposed Project – Raw Water Option



IV. The Record

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 (b) requires that the City's findings be supported by substantial evidence in the record. Accordingly, the Lead Agency's record consists of the following, which are located at the County Planning and Building Department Offices, San Luis Obispo, California:

- Documentary and oral evidence, testimony, and staff comments and responses received and reviewed by the Lead Agency during informational workshops, public review, and the public hearings on the project.
- The Nacimiento Water Project Final Environmental Impact Report.
- Reports and other written information, a comprehensive list of important documents in the record. Some more recent and relevant studies include:
 - List of intended project participants (see Exhibit A).
 - Northwest Economic Associates, 2002. Economic Impacts of the Nacimiento Water Supply Project. Prepared for the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department.
 - Carollo Engineers. 1993. *Hydrogeology Study, Thunderbird Water Wells*. Prepared for City of El Paso de Robles Public Works Department. February.
 - —. 1996. EIR Preparation Phase, Engineering Report, County of San Luis Obispo, Nacimiento Water Supply Project. Prepared for San Luis Obispo County. Bakersfield, CA. July.
 - —. 1996a. Technical Memorandum No. 1, Initial Project Description, Nacimiento Water Supply Project. Bakersfield, CA. March 29.
 - —. 2002. EIR Preparation Phase Engineering Report, Nacimiento Project. Updated Draft. Prepared for San Luis Obispo County. April.
 - —. 2002. EIR Preparation Phase, Engineering Report, Nacimiento Water Supply Project. Prepared for San Luis Obispo County.
 - Cleath & Associates. Nacimiento Water Discharge and Recovery Concept, Draft Feasibility Study, April, 1997.
 - Boyle Engineering Corporation. 1991. *Final Report Ground Water Basin Evaluation*. Prepared for the City of San Luis Obispo. January.

- —. 2002. Report. Nacimiento Reservoir – Reliability as a Water Source.
- Boyle Engineering Corporation and San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. 2002. *Report on Treatment of Lake Nacimiento Water*. 15p. June. Available from: Department of Planning and Building, San Luis Obispo County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- Fugro West, Inc. 2002. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Study. Prepared for the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department.
- County of Monterey Water Resources Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2001. Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Salinas Valley Water Project.
- Ogden Environmental and Energy Services Co. Inc. 1997. *Nacimiento Water Project, Draft Environmental Impact Report* (ED 92-271). Prepared for SLO County. August. Santa Barbara, CA.
- The application and supporting materials for the project submitted by the Department of Public Works (the Applicant).
- Matters of common knowledge to the Lead Agency which it considers, such as:
 1. The County General Plan, including the land use maps and elements thereof.
 2. The text of the Land Use Element.
 3. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the state CEQA guidelines implementing the act.
 4. The County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.
 5. Other formally adopted policies and ordinances of the County of San Luis Obispo.

V. The December 2003 Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Nacimiento Water Project

The City Council of the City of Paso Robles makes the following findings with respect to the December 2003 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Nacimiento Water Project SCH #2001061022 (ED00-060):

- A. The City has considered the information contained in the December 2003 *Final EIR for the Nacimiento Water Project*, the public comments and responses previously submitted, and the public comments and information presented at the public hearings.
- B. The City Council hereby finds and determines that implementation of the Nacimiento Water Project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
- C. The City Council hereby finds with respect to the adverse environmental impacts detailed in the Final EIR:
 - 1 That, based on information set forth in the Final EIR, the Findings of Fact, the list of mitigation measures included in the Summary of Mitigation Measures (Section 9.0), the City Council finds and determines that changes or alterations have been required in or incorporated into the project which avoid or substantially lessen the adverse environmental effects identified in the Final EIR. The organization of this section is as follows, and reflects the organization of the December 2003 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Nacimiento Water Project (FEIR):
 - 5.1 Hydrology and Water Quality
 - 5.2 Geology, Seismicity and Soils
 - 5.3 Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation
 - 5.4 Air Quality
 - 5.5 Noise
 - 5.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - 5.7 Biological Resources
 - 5.8 Cultural and Paleontological Resources
 - 5.9 Land Use
 - 5.10 Utilities and Public Services
 - 5.11 Transportation/Circulation
 - 5.12 Aesthetics/Visual Resources
 - 5.13 Agricultural Resources
 - 5.14 Recreational Resources
 - 5.15 Socioeconomic Resources
 - 6.0 Environmental Justice
 - 7.0 Growth Inducement
 - 2 That, based on information set forth in the Final EIR and in the Findings of Fact, the adverse environmental effects related to construction related air quality impacts and

growth impacts associated with the Nacimiento Water Project are significant effects which cannot be entirely mitigated or avoided if the project is approved and implemented;

- 3 That no additional adverse impacts will have a significant effect or result in substantial or potentially substantial adverse changes in the environment as a result of the Nacimiento Water Project.

G. The City Council hereby finds and determines that:

- 1 All significant effects (except construction related air quality impacts and growth inducement impacts) that can be feasibly avoided have been eliminated or substantially lessened as determined through the findings set forth in Section VII;
- 2 The project design and development incorporates adequate measures to ensure protection of significant archeological resources, biological resources, and visual and aesthetic resources.
- 3 Based on the Final EIR, the Findings, and other documents in the record, specific environmental, economic, social and other considerations make infeasible other project alternatives identified in the Final EIR;
- 4 Based on the Final EIR, the Findings, and other documents in the record, the remaining unavoidable significant environmental effects of the Nacimiento Water Project are outweighed and overridden by the benefits of the project as described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- 5 Should the final design of the Nacimiento Water Project have the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts that are not anticipated or addressed by the December 2003 Final EIR, subsequent environmental review shall be required in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a).

VI. Statement of Overriding Considerations

The Final EIR has identified and discussed significant effects that will occur as a result of the proposed project. With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR, these effects can be mitigated to a level of insignificance except for short-term construction related air quality impacts and long-term growth inducement related impacts (see Section IX of these findings for further discussion of potentially significant impacts associated with the proposed project).

Having reduced the effects of the proposed project by adopting the other mitigation measures and a program to monitor mitigation measures for certain project-related impacts, and having balanced the benefits of the project against the project's unavoidable adverse impacts, the City Council pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15093 and 15092 hereby determines that the benefits of the proposed project outweigh these potential unavoidable adverse impacts based on the following overriding considerations:

1. The proposed project will provide a reliable supplemental water source for a variety of uses within SLO County by supplementing the local ground and surface water supplies with a new surface water source.
2. The project will increase reliability of water deliveries, improve water quality and lessen the extent of future ground water pumping to existing residents and provide sufficient supplies to support planning objectives in various communities of SLO County.
3. The proposed project will ensure better management of water resources throughout the County.
4. The construction of the project will result in both short-term and long-term economic benefits to the County of San Luis Obispo and its residents. The NWP would add about 0.5 percent to San Luis Obispo County output and employment during the four-year design and construction period. The NWP would also increase sales taxes in the county by about \$2,200,000 over the four-year construction period. Over a period of 30 years, the net present value of total economic output for the NWP would be \$119,239,000 in 2003 dollars. The large positive impacts during the first four of the 30 years would outweigh the discounted value of the high face value of the bonds used to finance the project.
5. Water supply needs were anticipated in 1959 when the SLOFCWCD entered into agreements with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency to appropriate 17,500 afy of water from Lake Nacimiento. The County has engaged in more than a decade-long public process involving hundreds of stakeholders to develop a project that will ensure efficient management of the County's water resources. The NWP EIR evaluated a wide variety of alternatives to the proposed project, including alternative project configurations and water

supplies. The result of this analysis is the finding that the Proposed Project – Raw Water Option would best serve the needs of the County and project participants.

The City Council of the City of Paso Robles hereby determines that the specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the proposed project described above outweigh the potential unavoidable adverse effects on the environment, and that the unavoidable adverse effects are therefore acceptable based on the overriding considerations listed above.

IMPACT ANALYSIS: Four categories of impacts are identified:

Class I. Class I impacts are significant and unavoidable. To approve a project resulting in Class I impacts, the CEQA Guidelines require decision makers to make findings of overriding consideration that “... *specific legal, technological, economic, social, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the EIR...*”.

Class II. Class II impacts are significant but can be mitigated to a level of insignificance by measures identified in this EIR and the project description. When approving a project with Class II impacts, the decision-makers must make findings that changes or alternatives to the project have been incorporated that reduce the impacts to a less than significant level.

Class III. Class III impacts are adverse but not significant.

Class IV. Beneficial impacts.

VII. Potential Environmental Effects Which Are Beneficial or Not Significant

The City Council has concluded that the following effects are not considered significant.

Hydrology and Water Quality	
Impact WQ.2	Increased turbidity impacts from construction work within the water bodies. (FEIR page 5.1-34)
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impacts are considered potentially adverse but less than significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Temporary elevated turbidity at the lake bottom does not present a significant adverse impact to water resources, and is not expected to be of a duration or magnitude that would necessitate mitigation.	
Impact WQ.5	Impacts to groundwater from sea water intrusion in Salinas Basin. (FEIR page 5.1-39)
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impacts are considered potentially adverse but less than significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: The reason there are reductions in conservation releases under NWP is due to the historical use by MCWRA of NWP project water for this purpose. Mitigation for the reductions in releases has been addressed by MCWRA through the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP).	

Air Quality

Impact AQ.3	Increased emissions of toxic compounds due to the project could result in increased health risks. (FEIR page 5.4-17)
Mitigation	None additional
Findings	The residual health risk impact is considered adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Operation of the project involves emissions mostly due to gasoline powered commuter vehicles of the project employees and is not expected to create health risks. Emergency generators will only be large enough to provide backup power for facility instrumentation and will not be capable of powering the pumps.	
Construction equipment could generate exhaust that could cause health risks. Construction equipment however would be moving along the pipeline route at an average rate of 200–500 feet per day. Exposure to exhaust of the construction equipment therefore would only be for short periods (2–3 days) at any one particular location or receptor.	
Impact AQ.4	Project Conformity with the Clean Air Act. (FEIR page 5.4-19)
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impact is adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Analyses show that there are no current violations of the NAAQS in the areas which are substantially affected by the proposed project.	
Impact AQ.5	Project Consistency with the County Clean Air Plan. (FEIR page 5.4-20)
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impact is adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Because the 17,500 acre-foot per year entitlement was assumed in the County’s growth projections forecast, the proposed project would be consistent with assumptions in the CAP.	

Noise	
Impact N.2	Operations noise from pumps would increase long-term ambient noise levels. (FEIR page 5.5-20)
Mitigation	<p>N-5 Noise-generating equipment associated with operation of pump stations shall be enclosed to reduce noise levels to near ambient conditions. At the 60% design phase for each pump station, plans shall be reviewed by a qualified acoustical engineer to assure that noise levels meet the standards of the County Noise Element.</p> <p>N-6 If necessary to achieve the noise attenuation levels specified in N-5, pumps shall be set below grade, i.e. in a basement in the noise-attenuating building, to further reduce noise impacts.</p>
Findings	The impact would be adverse but not significant (Class III).

Supportive Evidence: The proposed noise-attenuating buildings would reduce the noise generated by the pump operation. Pump operation noise would exceed noise thresholds by a small amount, so sound-attenuating buildings would reduce noise levels below the significance criteria.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
Impact HM.1	During construction of the proposed pipeline on the Camp Roberts property, unexploded military ordnance could be encountered, which could expose construction workers to explosion hazards (FEIR page 5.6-13).
Mitigation	None
Findings	The impact is considered to be adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Ordnance is fired into the dedicated area north of the Nacimiento River, while construction of the water pipeline will enter the Camp at the west central portion and proceed towards the southeastern boundary. The specific area where unexploded ordnance could be found is off limits to the public, and the Camp's administration will provide training to the workers on the hazards of conducting work at Camp Roberts. The workers would be required to report any suspected ordnance (pieces or complete units) to the supervisor who will be required to notify the Camp Roberts Control officer. All work would be required to be halted until it is determined that the suspect item is harmless, is removed or made harmless by detonation in place.	
Impact HM.4	Releases of hazardous or flammable materials during construction could pose risks of fire or contamination (FEIR page 5.6-19).
Mitigation	<p>HM-5 The HazMat Contingency Plan shall outline response actions including (at a minimum) clean-up and reporting procedures, clean-up equipment and supplies, and personnel responsibilities. As part of the plan, the Contractor shall be required to store fuels, oils, and other hazardous materials in sealed containers (tanks, cans or drums) located in storage basins within designated staging areas. The storage basins shall be located at a minimum distance of 25 feet from all natural/man-made drainages or surface water bodies and should be lined and surrounded by protective dikes or other types of secondary containment to provide sufficient volume to contain any spills.</p> <p>HM-6 The HazMat Contingency Plan shall state that the Contractor shall provide for the implementation of traffic control and site control (i.e., access, fencing, drainage) to reduce the potential for accidents to occur. Fire extinguishers should be stationed in all vehicles and at strategic locations onsite.</p> <p>HM-7 The HazMat Contingency Plan shall state that the Contractor shall be required to conduct routine inspection and maintenance of construction vehicles and equipment.</p>
Findings	With the mitigation measures, risks due to potential releases of hazardous materials during construction would be adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Cal/OSHA requires construction projects to implement safe hazardous material handling and storage, transfer (e.g., refueling), and maintenance (e.g., oil changes, washing). Projects are required to have designated staging/maintenance areas, standard operating procedures, and emergency	

<p>response planning. Several staging areas are planned along the pipeline route; the construction teams are required to use these areas for storage of machinery and fuels and for refueling. The Applicant will be required to comply with Cal/OSHA requirements.</p>	
Impact HM.5	Contaminated materials in the soil could enter into the pipeline expose water users to contamination and pose health risks (FEIR page 5.6-20).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impact would be considered adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The pipeline would be installed in accordance with the State of California Health and Safety Code (CCR Title 22, Section 64630) that mandates minimum distances between potable water and sewer pipelines; and requires maintaining a minimum pressure in potable water lines; and disinfection of water after loss of pressure in a pipeline. It is a part of the proposed project to install concrete protective casing around the proposed pipeline where it would cross with sewer lines or other significantly contaminated soils.</p> <p>During the pipeline installation, areas where sewer pipelines are in the vicinity of the pipeline route would be identified in detail. Any encountered contaminated soil would be excavated and disposed of as required in all applicable regulations.</p>	
Impact HM.7	Accidental release of large quantities of treated water into a fresh water body could be harmful to the organisms in the water body (FEIR page 5.6-25).
Mitigation	HM-11 The Applicant shall make provisions to test the proposed pipeline with water that has not been disinfected (no chemicals that have a potential to harm aquatic organisms have been added) and to determine a way of safely disposing of the test water.
Findings	The impact would be adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Based on the EUB historical pipeline failure rates, the probability of a catastrophic pipeline failure has been estimated to be 4.8×10^{-5} per mile annually. For the 64 mile NWP pipeline, this would result in an annual catastrophic spill probability of 3.1×10^{-3}, or approximately 0.31 spills over an assumed 100-year operating period. Therefore, it is likely that the pipeline will not experience a catastrophic spill over the life of the project assuming the pipeline is properly designed, constructed, inspected and maintained.</p>	

Biological Resources	
Impact BR.6	Impacts to aquatic life from treated water spills in case the treated water pipeline ruptures during operational phase of the project (FEIR page 5.7-37).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impacts are adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: As stated in the discussion to Impact HM.7 in Section 5.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, a treated water pipeline rupture is unlikely. Also, chlorine residual in the treated water is</p>	

<p>quickly depleted if the treated water is exposed to the atmosphere, sunlight or chemicals contained in soil. If the treated water were released not directly into a water body, the chlorine residual would be quickly reduced to harmless concentration that would not impact water organisms.</p>	
Impact BR.7	Impacts to fish in Lake Nacimiento due to pumping through the water intake during operational phase of the project (FEIR page 5.7-38).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impacts are adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The Intake structure design incorporates standard design features to prevent fish entrapment (fish screens).</p>	
Impact BR.8	Impacts to fisheries during operational phase of the proposed project (FEIR page 5.7-38).
Mitigation	The Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) addressed under cumulative projects would provide mitigation for the reductions in water releases from Nacimiento dam through controlled operation of the dam. No additional mitigation is necessary.
Findings	Residual impacts are adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Operation of the Nacimiento dam and controlled water releases would take into consideration the water intake that will be done by the proposed NWP. It has been found in the SVWP EIR that the re-operation of the Nacimiento dam would not significantly impact fisheries downstream from Nacimiento Dam. The controlled operation of the dam would result in controlled water releases and in turn would allow hydrology downstream from the Nacimiento dam to be less affected by the drought periods or by the water intake by the proposed project. The anticipated changes due to the project water intake do not appear likely to substantially alter habitat conditions for either native fishes or introduced warm water fishes downstream of the Dam. There should be no change in the availability of the “put in and take out” trout fishery to anglers on Camp Roberts.</p>	

Cultural and Paleontological Resources	
Impact CR.2	Soil moving construction activities (e.g., trenching, excavating) could impact significant and important geology resources (FEIR page 5.8-68).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impacts would be adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Two technical reports on cultural and paleontological resources of the project site have been prepared by Gibson’s Archaeological Consulting (Inventory of Prehistoric, Historic, Paleontology, Geomorphology and Geological Resources for the Nacimiento Water Supply Pipeline Project, San Luis Obispo County, CA, November 1996 and January 30, 2003). These reports are herein incorporated by reference and because of the confidential nature of the information, may be reviewed by qualified persons on a “need-to-know” basis at the Environmental Division of the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, California.</p>	

<p>These reports identify all geological, cultural, paleontological and archaeological existing and potential resources that are in proximity to the proposed project sites. All geological resources are sufficiently far from the project sites that significant impacts are not expected.</p>	
Impact CR.5	Soil moving construction activities (e.g., trenching, excavating) could impact significant and important historical cultural resources (FEIR page 5.8-80).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Residual impacts would be adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: see discussion above for Impact CR.2	

Utilities and Public Services	
Impact UP.1	Impacts to Water Services during construction (FEIR page 5.10-8)
Mitigation	UP-1 To mitigate potential adverse impacts to potable water supplies due to short-term use during construction, all contractors should use (maximally as feasible) non-potable water sources for dust mitigation and other non-drinking purposes.
Findings	After implementation of the proposed mitigation measure the residual impact is considered to be adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: It is estimated that water would be required for application to approximately 800 acres of construction area assuming a worst-case scenario of a 100-foot construction corridor for a 65-mile pipeline and some auxiliary facilities. This impact would be short-term, occurring only during the construction phase; however, the water supplies within the County are finite and demand is nearing the limits. The project's water use would represent an adverse impact to potable water supplies if potable water was used, because if this mitigation is proposed, which would encourage use of non-potable water for the project construction.	
Impact UP.2	Impacts to Water Services during operation (FEIR page 5.10-8).
Mitigation	None
Findings	This is a beneficial impact (Class IV).
Supportive Evidence: Operation of the Nacimiento water system would result in a net increase of water supply in SLO County. Reliability of water supply in the region would be improved due to the project – additional reliable water source would be available from Lake Nacimiento, as identified in Engineering Report for the project (Carollo Engineers 2002).	
Impact UP.3	Impacts to Energy Resources (FEIR page 5.10-9).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impact is not significant (Class III).

<p>Supportive Evidence: The total fuel consumption for the construction of the proposed project cannot be accurately estimated at this time. However, the proposed facilities are relatively small, the construction phase is temporary, and diesel and gasoline are readily available fuels.</p> <p>Annual energy use at the three pump stations was estimated at approximately 7.1 million kilowatt hours² (kWh), for a total maximum of 21 million kWh/yr. These estimates are a worst-case scenario of 100% horsepower efficiency operating 24 hours per day minus 10% downtime. During normal operations, these facilities would not operate at this capacity. The worst case estimate is less than 2% of all electricity consumed in SLO County.</p> <p>Due to the difference in water level in the Camp Roberts storage tanks and other elevation differences along the pipeline, an energy recovery system could be used by means of converting hydraulic energy to electricity or directly driving the equipment (Boyle 2002). The water conveyance system is designed in a way that utilizes high elevations whenever possible to increase the hydraulic gradient (i.e., pressure head), or decrease the amount of energy used by the pumps. In addition, it is not imperative for the water supply or water users that the water system remains operational during electricity use peak hours, and therefore the project would not impact peak hours electricity use.</p> <p>MCWRA owns and operates a hydroelectric facility located downstream of Nacimiento Dam. The power generated at the facility is sold to PG&E in the amount of up to four megawatts. The minimum flow rate required to operate the facility would be 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) (Ogden 1997). If water levels were to drop below 25 cfs, the hydroelectric facility would be unable to operate. The hydroelectric facility generates only a very small fraction of power available to PG&E, and non-operation of the facility would be expected during drought even without the proposed project.</p>	
Impact UP.5	Impacts to law enforcement (FEIR page 5.10-12).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impact is insignificant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The proposed pipeline route is almost entirely within the jurisdiction of SLO County's Sheriff's Department. Construction activities associated with installation of the pipeline would increase the need for additional patrols, primarily due to increased traffic congestion during pipeline construction. According to the Nacimiento Area Plan, portions of area roadways become dangerously congested during peak use (e.g., summer holiday weekends), however SLO County's Sheriff's Department has adequate personnel to accommodate increased patrols on a short-term basis, and therefore the impact would be insignificant.</p> <p>Operation of the proposed facilities would not require additional law enforcement services beyond normal patrolling, therefore impact would be insignificant.</p>	
Impact UP.6	Impacts to Waste Disposal Services (FEIR page 5.10-12).
Mitigation	None

² Boyle Engineers Report (Boyle 2002) estimated that the WTP and the WTP pump station would have a load of approximately 2,000 kW, with less than 1,000 kW for each of the other two pump stations .

Findings	Impact is insignificant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: During construction, the proposed project would generate waste asphalt and concrete pavement, soil and, possibly, sand spoils due to the trenching and grading involved in pipeline and facility construction. It has been estimated (Carollo Engineers 2002) that approximately 0.02 to 0.26 cubic yards of soil, waste pavement and other groundcover materials per foot of pipe would be spoil (a total of approximately 45–60 thousand cubic yards for a 65-mile pipeline). Construction of other facilities (e.g., water intake, micro-tunnels, pump stations and water storage tanks) would generate additional spoil and waste materials.</p> <p>During construction in open spaces, the Applicant would balance cut and fill material onsite (i.e., cut soil would be used as backfill) to reduce spoil as much as possible. Any resulting spoil material could be spread evenly over the easement (this would represent one to two inches of cover over the permanent easement), or used as fill material for other projects in the area (typically a commercial or a residential site that needs fill material). Where possible, concrete and asphalt pavement and other waste will be recycled. In the unlikely event that no commercial or residential sites are found to dispose of the materials, the material would be taken to the nearest landfill. Analysis of the Class III landfills in the vicinity of the proposed project indicates that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate waste generated by construction. If the amount of spoils is above 50 cubic yards, the County Building Department requires the contractor to have an approved disposal site prior to issuance of a grading permit. The Applicant would obtain all required permits needed for proper disposal.</p> <p>If hazardous materials were uncovered during construction, these would need to be disposed off at a facility that is permitted to receive hazardous wastes. Analysis of the three Class I and II waste disposal facilities indicated that they have sufficient capacity to accommodate contaminated soils and other industrial hazardous waste generated by the project. The proposed project is designed and required to comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.</p>	
Impact UP.7	Impacts to school facilities (FEIR page 5.10-14).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impacts are insignificant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The project would create nine or fewer permanent employees, no direct impacts to school facilities would occur as a consequence of operating the proposed project. The proposed project could contribute to increased demands on school facilities in the county assuming the expanded water supply accommodates planned growth. Every SLO County school district scheduled to receive water from the proposed project currently lists its capacity and enrollment conditions as moderate to severe (see FEIR Section 7, Growth Inducement).</p>	
Impact UP.8	Impacts to roads and road maintenance (FEIR page 5.10-14).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Impacts are insignificant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: According to the project description, the Applicant will restore the affected roads to the pre-project or better conditions. Additional use of roads during operation of the proposed facilities</p>	

(10–12 vehicles per day) would be small.

Transportation and Circulation	
Impact T.5	Pedestrian circulation would be affected by project activities if pedestrians are unable to pass through a construction zone (FEIR page 5.11-19).
Mitigation	Implement mitigation measure T-2. T-11 The Applicant shall designate alternative routes, accessible to disabled persons, when construction activities obstruct pedestrian routes. T-12 At locations where trenching activities cross sidewalks or other established pedestrian routes, plating shall be provided to maintain access to these routes.
Findings	The impact would be considered adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Most of the streets affected by the proposed pipeline route do not bear heavy pedestrian traffic, but the sidewalk closures on El Camino Real in Santa Margarita and Highland Drive, Patricia Drive, Foothill Road, and Prado Road may inconvenience pedestrians. At least one sidewalk would be available on these streets however, and construction would be temporary, and short term at any one location.	
Impact T.7	Operation of pump stations and pipeline would add truck traffic on local roads (FEIR page 5.11-20).
Mitigation	None
Findings	The impact caused by a small increase in roadway traffic resulting from increased truck transportation would be considered adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: As estimated from the Engineering report for the project (Carollo Engineers 2002), daily staffing would include several employees. Pump station maintenance traffic would be one vehicle per day. In total, operational traffic would add to local road traffic by daily average of 46 one-way vehicle trips and highway traffic by as many as 138 one-way vehicle trips, which would not change the LOS of any roadways.	

Aesthetics/Visual Resources	
Impact VR.2	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of Camp Roberts storage tanks and pump station (FEIR page 5.12-16).
Mitigation	VR-4 The tanks shall be a neutral or dark, non-contrasting color, and landscape screening shall be provided. Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with Section 22.04.186 of the San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinance and shall provide vegetation that will adequately screen the facilities. Landscape material must be consistent with the surrounding area, shown to do well in existing soils and conditions, be fast-growing, evergreen and drought tolerant. Shape and size of landscape material shall be in scale with proposed tanks and surrounding native vegetation. Plans shall show how plants will be watered and what watering schedule will be applied to ensure

	successful and vigorous growth.
Findings	The impact would be considered adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: During the survey of the area where the Camp Roberts facilities would be located, it was determined that there are no public locations from where the storage tanks or other structures could be seen. This is because the proposed site is screened from any public views by hills and vegetation. The paved access road to the site would be seen from Generals Road (within Camp Roberts) and from San Marcos Road, which is a public roadway. These roads are not heavily traveled, and the majority of the travelers are local residents and Camp Roberts personnel.	
Impact VR.3	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of Salinas River suspended pipe crossing (FEIR page 5.12-16).
Mitigation	VR-5 The perimeter of the suspended pipe crossing structural support shall be concealed using vegetation that is compatible with the surrounding area.
Findings	The impact would be insignificant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: Area surveys indicated that tall trees and thick brush of the river channel would screen the suspended pipe crossing structure across Salinas River from public views from Highway 101, the railroad and other roads on the west side of the pipe crossing. The river crossing will be visible from North River Road as was shown through visual simulation done in the FEIR. This rural road is used mainly by local residents, and is not designated as scenic.	
Impact VR.6	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of Cuesta Tunnel Storage Tank (FEIR page 5.12-23).
Mitigation	Mitigation measure VR-9 shall be implemented. VR-12 The tank shall be a neutral or dark, non-contrasting color, and landscape screening shall be provided. Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with Section 22.04.186 of the San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinance and shall provide vegetation that will adequately screen the facilities. Landscape material must be consistent with the surrounding area, shown to do well in existing soils and conditions, be fast-growing, evergreen and drought tolerant. Shape and size of landscape material shall be in scale with proposed tank and surrounding native vegetation. Plans shall show how plants will be watered and what watering schedule will be applied to ensure successful and vigorous growth. During construction, the Applicant's contractor shall preserve as much of the existing vegetation (trees and shrubbery) as feasible.
Findings	The impact of Cuesta Tunnel storage tank is adverse but not significant (Class III).
Supportive Evidence: The visual quality of the Cuesta Grade area, while somewhat diminished from a pristine natural state, still maintains a relatively high visual quality since the visual impact of these man-made activities are relatively small compared to the overall scale of the grade and the natural features (from visual surveys). The sensitivity to visual impact is also considered relatively high because motorists traveling Highway 101 see Cuesta Grade as the major visual separation between the north and south portions of SLO	

<p>County. It is a visual reference and a landmark area within the county. According to CalTrans there are some 30,000 vehicles with approximately 45,000 viewers traveling Highway 101 each day. In the summer there are more vacationers with higher sensitivities to the visual quality of the area.</p> <p>The Cuesta Tunnel Storage Tank would be 122 feet in diameter, with a height of approximately 22 feet (Carollo Engineers 2002). The tank would be seen from a narrow gravel road that leads to the entry of the Cuesta Tunnel (determined through visual simulations done for the FEIR). Usually this road is not used by the general public.</p> <p>During the area survey it has been determined that only small portions of the storage tank could be visible to the travelers on Highway 101, because it is screened by topography and vegetation (as was determined through visual simulation done for the FEIR). The travelers would be viewing the area from Highway 101 at fairly high speeds, so the viewing time would be very short and in most instances the tank would be unnoticeable.</p>	
Impact VR.7	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of turnouts and air release valves (FEIR page 5.12-24).
Mitigation	None
Findings	The visual impact is adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The aboveground portion of an air valve is a valve protection structure that is typically visually very small: 3–3.5 feet tall by 1.5–2 feet in diameter, and is typically protected from a vehicle impact by short poles.</p>	
Impact VR.8	Visual impacts due to change in the Lake Nacimiento water levels resulting from the release of additional water (FEIR page 5.12-24).
Mitigation	None
Findings	The visual impact is adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The proposed project would result in more water (16,200 afy) released from Lake Nacimiento than under current conditions. The level of the reservoir on average would be expected to be lower than historical levels. Computer simulations of the reservoir level have been conducted (Boyle 2002), and it has been demonstrated that the proposed project would influence the reservoir level only slightly—during wet or average seasons the reservoir level would be lower than historical by less than 2 feet. During extreme drought, water levels would be lowered by as much as 8-12 feet due to the project, however extreme drought is a rare event.</p> <p>Under normal operating conditions, water levels in the reservoir fluctuate considerably depending on the season, with annual lake level difference as much as 60–70 feet on average, and more than 100 feet during several years.</p>	
Impact VR.9	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of river discharge facilities (FEIR page 5.12-28).
Mitigation	Measure VR-9 shall be implemented. No other mitigation is necessary.

Findings	The visual impact is adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The Raw Water Option also includes three water discharge facilities: Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero. The river discharge ponds would be contained by two-foot high berms. There would be a pipe manifold with a valve on each pond influent pipe and a meter on the main influent line, however all the associated structures would be low to the ground. The area required for these ponds is 3.5 acres for Paso Robles, 0.2 acres for Templeton, and 2.7 acres for Atascadero, with a 30-foot road around each discharge site (Carollo Engineers 2002).</p> <p>All three discharge facilities would involve no significant structures. The Paso Robles discharge site would be located away from any major public roads. Templeton and Atascadero discharge site could be visible to the travelers using the Union Pacific Railroad; however, due to few visible structures, and presence of vegetation in the river estuary.</p>	

Recreational Resources	
Impact REC.1	The partial relocation of a log boom 500 feet from the intake location would prohibit all recreational activity on approximately 2 additional acres of lake surface area (FEIR page 5.14-15).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Because of the small percentage of surface area potentially excluded from recreational activities, recreation impacts due to the installation of a log boom 500 feet from the intake location are adverse but not significant (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Assembly Bill 1460, approved September 28, 1997, authorizes recreational activity in which there can be bodily contact with the water in Lake Nacimiento, in accordance with certain requirements. These requirements include protection of the water supply by providing a closed zone, 500 feet from the intake location, within which all recreational use is prohibited. This area would be marked with buoys and a cable line to prevent boats from entering the closed area. The shoreline extending 500 feet on either side of the intake would be closed to entry by fencing, posting notices, and security patrols.</p> <p>The current location of the log boom prohibits recreational uses on approximately 25 acres of lake surface area. Partial relocation of the log boom 500 feet from the intake location would result in a recreational loss of approximately 2 additional acres of lake surface area in which no boating, fishing, or swimming could occur (SLO County, 2003). Average historic elevations at Lake Nacimiento from 1958 to 2001 were approximately 752-feet, which is the equivalent to a lake surface area of approximately 3,458-acres. Two acres represents less than 0.06% of the total average lake surface area available for recreation.</p>	
Impact REC.2	Implementation of the proposed project could result in adverse impacts to recreational resources at Lake Nacimiento, as compared to historic conditions, due to the additional lowering of water levels to elevations below 748 feet during periods of drought (FEIR page 5.14-16).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Due to the insignificant increase in the number of days that lake level elevations dropped

below the 748-foot threshold during the peak recreation season, recreation impacts associated with the proposed project’s delivery schedule and subsequent lowering of lake level elevations are *adverse but not significant* (Class III).

Supportive Evidence: In a study entitled, Nacimiento Reservoir – Reliability As a Water Source for San Luis Obispo County (Boyle 2002), Boyle Engineering Corporation prepared a computer model, forecasting theoretical drawdown effects with the proposed project using data for the period of October 1958 to October 2001. This data is used to illustrate and compare what effects the proposed project might have had on historic lake level fluctuations; in other words, if SLO County had taken its entitlement of 17,500 afy for the time period starting in 1958 through October of 2001.

The 2002 study developed assumptions based on historical reservoir operation patterns. Annually, Monterey County releases more than 230,000 afy from Lake Nacimiento in order to recharge downstream aquifers. Examination of the historical Nacimiento River gage data shows reservoir releases typically occur during the summer months. Using this data, Boyle Engineering evaluated the potential impacts that would have occurred to historic reservoir levels had the bulk of the SLO County water entitlement been released during the summer months. It was assumed that the full 16,200 af would be removed from Lake Nacimiento by the proposed project on the following seasonally adjusted delivery schedule (refer to Table below).

Proposed Project Seasonal Delivery Schedule

Month	% of Entitlement
January	7.4
February	7.5
March	7.5
April	7.5
May	8.5
June	7.5
July	11.6
August	9.5
September	8.5
October	8.5
November	7.5
December	8.5
Total	100

Source: Nacimiento Reservoir- Reliability as a Water Source for San Luis Obispo County 2002.

A similar study, entitled Reliability Evaluation for the Nacimiento Water Supply Project, was released in 1996 based on the previous Nacimiento Water Project design. The 1996 study used a smaller sample size and was based on different computer models with different assumptions and a different reservoir release schedule; consequently, it would not be appropriate to directly compare the results of these two studies.

The 2002 theoretical lake level model indicates that during wet and average rainfall periods, water deliveries associated with the proposed project would have resulted in water level differences of 2 feet or less. During periods of sustained drought conditions, the proposed project would result in lake elevation decreases of up to 12 feet. However, it should be noted that during severe drought years lake level decreases would be limited by the minimum pool elevation where NWP water deliveries would be suspended.

Figure 5.14-4 contained in the FEIR (page 5.14-19) shows the impact of the proposed project on historic lake levels. Historical lake levels were summarized by Boyle Engineering (2002) and have shown that, in 196 months of 517 months, or approximately 38% of the time, lake elevations dropped to 748 feet or below (refer to Section 5.14.3 for discussion of significance criteria). Assuming implementation of the proposed project, 200 months of 517 months or 4 additional months during a 41-year period, lake elevations would be reduced to elevations of 748 feet or below. This represents an approximately 0.75% increase in the number of months that lake level elevations dropped below the 748-foot threshold.

Looking at a smaller sample size of only those months during the peak recreation season (May 1–September 30) yields the following results (refer to Table below):

Under the existing setting, 2,241 days out of 6,426 days during the entire 41-year study period, lake elevations dropped to 748 feet or below during the peak recreation seasons.

Lake elevations dropped to 748 feet or below, during the peak recreation season, an average of 54.7 days.

Assuming implementation of the proposed project, 2,253 days out of 6,426 days during the entire 41-year study period, lake elevations would have dropped to 748 feet or below during the peak recreations seasons.

Existing Conditions/Proposed Project as Compared to Significance Criteria

	Historical Conditions	Historical Conditions w/ Proposed Project	Increase/Difference
Total Number of Days in Study Period ^a	6426	6426	N/A
Total Number of Days With Elevations At or Below 748-feet ^b	2241	2253	12
Yearly Average Number of Days With Elevations At or Below 748-feet ^b	54.7	55.0	0.3
Significance Criteria (days)	N/A	60.5	5.5

Notes:

^a October 1958 through October 2001, days during the peak recreation season (May 1–September 30) only.

^b Days during the peak recreation season (May 1- September 30).

Source: Nacimiento Reservoir – Reliability as a Water Source for San Luis Obispo County 2002.

Had the proposed project been implemented, lake elevations would have dropped to 748 feet or below during the peak recreation season an average of 55.0 days.

This represents an approximate 0.3-day increase in the average number of days lake levels would have reached elevations of 748 feet or below, well below the significance criteria of 5.5 additional days.

Although the proposed project would have increased the number of times that lake levels at Lake Nacimiento were below 748 feet from a historical standpoint, the lake levels would not have dropped below the 748-foot threshold by an additional 5.5 days or more (for a total of 60.5 days or greater) during the peak recreation season.

Socioeconomic Resources	
Impact SE.1	Water pipeline construction activities located within the road ROWs near business centers (Paso Robles, Santa Margarita, and San Luis Obispo) have the potential to cause adverse impacts to industries located within and adjacent to project areas by impeding standard business practices. The majority of businesses that would be affected for the short-term are those located within or adjacent to construction areas on North River Road, El Camino Real in Santa Margarita, at the intersection of Dalidio Drive and Madonna Road, along Dalidio Drive, Prado Road extension, and Highway 227. These businesses may experience short-term impedance to business caused by road closures in front of businesses, some difficulties accessing storefronts, and nuisance to patrons from construction activities. This impedance to business would average one to two days during construction (based on construction of 50 to 100 feet of pipeline per day) (FEIR page 5.15-21).
Mitigation	Traffic mitigations T-1, T-2, T-3, T-7, T-8, T-11 and T-12 found in Section 5.11 are adequate to address these adverse impacts.
Findings	Implementation of the above mitigation measures will result in socioeconomic resource impacts that would be considered <i>less than significant</i> (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: There are various industries and retail businesses located along the proposed pipeline corridor as determined through area surveys. Many of these sites would only require temporary access during periods of construction, resulting in short-term, adverse but mitigable impacts to land uses if business practices are impeded or if construction activities are incompatible with existing practices. Construction activities located within and adjacent to urban road ROWs may cause disruption to standard business practices in several different ways, including impeding access to store fronts and creating construction zones, which may give the appearance of businesses being closed. In addition, construction equipment located onsite has the potential to occupy space normally utilized by industry vehicles and working operations.</p>	
Impact SE.2	Implementation of the proposed project would result in insignificant adverse impacts to businesses that rely on tourism/recreational activities at Lake Nacimiento, as compared to historic conditions, due to the additional lowering of water levels to elevations below 748 feet (FEIR page 5.15-22).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Due to the insignificant increase in the number of days that lake level elevations dropped below the 748-foot threshold during the peak recreation season, socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed project's delivery schedule and subsequent lowering of lake level elevations are <i>adverse but not significant</i> (Class III).
<p>Supportive Evidence: There are three businesses in the Lake Nacimiento area that have goods and services; these are the Lake Nacimiento Resort that has a restaurant, motel, convenience store and boat rentals, Bee Rock Store and Al's Boat Repair. Residents of the Lake Nacimiento Area must shop outside the area for the majority of their goods and services.</p> <p>The urban community nearest Lake Nacimiento is the City of Paso Robles, located within the Salinas River planning area and within Census Tract 102. Census Tracts 100, 101, 102, and northern SLO County</p>	

as a whole utilize Paso Robles as the regional market center.

There are several businesses within Paso Robles that serve Lake Nacimiento visitors through the peak recreation season. These include various marine shops, service stations, grocery and convenience stores, restaurants, and hotels. Taxable sales data for businesses within the Paso Robles area was acquired from the State Board of Equalization. Figures 5.15-5 through 5.15-9 (see FEIR pages 5.15-23 through 5.15-27, these figures appear in California State Board of Equalization, Taxable Sales in California (Sales and Use Tax), 1980–2000. Hardan and C. Alakel 2002) depict the relationship between retail sales of various commodities traditionally associated with lake usage and historic lake level elevations.

Figures 5.15-5 through 5.15-9 (see FEIR pages 5.15-23 through 5.15-27) show retail sales and boat sales countywide, as compared to historic lake level elevations. Historic lake level elevation was chosen for comparison because, as shown in Figure 5.15-4, there appears to be a general trend that suggests visitation decreases as lake levels decrease.

Analysis of Figures 5.15-5 through 5.15-9 (see FEIR pages 5.15-23 through 5.15-27) indicates that while businesses located within Paso Robles provide services to Lake Nacimiento visitors, they do not rely solely on recreation users for their income. This is particularly evident in the years 1989 through 1991 when Lake Nacimiento reported record low levels while, conversely, retail sales in the Paso Robles area, in many instances, peaked. This helps to show that a variety of factors, other than lake levels and visitor usage of Lake Nacimiento, contribute to the economic health of the study area. Paso Robles is a regional market as well as a visitor destination point for visitors drawn to the area because of the numerous wineries and wine festivals in the area. Paso Robles also hosts the Mid-State Fair, which draws a substantial number of tourists during the month of August. The Mid-State Fairgrounds also hosts annual events such as mineral and gun shows, stock shows and sales, home fairs and other events that draw visitors statewide. Paso Robles also serves travelers along the U.S. Highway 101 corridor, which services a steady flow of peak season highway travelers.

Unlike the community of Paso Robles and SLO County as a whole, the communities immediately surrounding Lake Nacimiento may be more directly influenced by water management activities. Taxable sales data for the businesses within Census Tract 100 (Lake Nacimiento environs), specifically, were not available from the State Board of Equalization due to confidentiality restrictions that require a minimum number of businesses to be present in order to report data. Consequently, the relationship between taxable sales in those businesses immediately surrounding Lake Nacimiento and historic lake level elevations is not analyzed. The businesses in the communities immediately surrounding Lake Nacimiento area are confined to a very few scattered retail establishments (including but not limited to Al's Marine and Bee Rock Store) in addition to the Lake Nacimiento Resort.

These commercial activities are mostly visitor serving, and are oriented toward peak use periods, relying directly on Lake Nacimiento tourism revenue from recreational activities. A reduction in recreational uses at Lake Nacimiento could result in long-term socioeconomic effects to these establishments. Despite potential setbacks, businesses could recover in the long run by shifting their target market and catering more to permanent residents and travelers who are visiting the area for purposes other than lake recreation. Bee Rock Store traditionally shifts its goods and services to local residents during the winter months when tourism is slow, and gears sales towards tourism in the summer months. Al's Marine provides a variety of services that would cater to year round residents as well as tourism. Normally, boat sales and repair occur near a visitor's home as opposed to their destination, due to a variety of factors including convenience, the location of various boating manufacturers near urban centers and large recreational areas (e.g., southern California coastal areas and the San Francisco Bay area). Lake Nacimiento Resort was unavailable for comment. However, it is apparent from observed spring weekday

usage, when only the store was open and use was extremely low, that the resort is a seasonal facility and caters to tourists.

Year-round residential use, which makes up approximately 70% of all Nacimiento area residences, may in fact play a greater role in supporting retail businesses than has typically been perceived, particularly during non-peak seasons. This trend towards year-round residential use has encouraged a major developer to apply for County approval to construct a commercial center near Oak Shores and Heritage Ranch (personal communication, County Planning Department).

Boyle Engineering Corporation (Boyle 2002) prepared a computer model, forecasting theoretical drawdown effects with the proposed project using data for the period of October 1958 to October 2001. This data was used to illustrate and compare what effects the proposed project might have had on historic lake level fluctuations; in other words, if SLO County had taken its entitlement of 17,500 acre feet per year (afy) for the time period starting in 1958 through October of 2001. Comparisons of the computer model drawdown effects versus actual historic lake levels showed that the proposed project would result in an approximate 0.3-day increase in the average number of days lake levels would have reached elevations of 748 feet or below during the peak recreation season, May 1–September 30, (refer to Impact REC.2). This 0.3-day increase is well below the significance criteria of 5.5 additional days as given for potential impacts to recreation (refer to Recreation section of the FEIR for further information). However, housing and economic resources are not totally dependent on recreational use of the lake, since there is a dominant trend for year round housing and not all of this housing has lake views or is oriented towards lake uses.

Impact SE.2	Implementation of the proposed project would result in insignificant adverse impacts to property values surrounding Lake Nacimiento resulting from changes in lake levels (FEIR page 5.15-29).
Mitigation	None
Findings	Due to the insignificant correlation between lake levels and historical median home prices of properties within the Lake Nacimiento area, socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed project’s delivery schedule and subsequent lowering of lake level elevations are <i>adverse but not significant</i> (Class III).

Supportive Evidence: The property value analysis was conducted by evaluating historical median housing price information for Census Tracts 100, 101, 102. Historical property sales data (1989–2000) were correlated with historic lake levels to evaluate the relationship between these variables (refer to FEIR Figures 5.15-10 through 5.15-12 on pages 5.15-30 through 5.15-32). Countywide median housing price information is included to show the similarities in housing price trends within the County as compared to the specific Census Tracts (refer to FEIR Figure 5.15-13 on page 5.15-33).

Housing prices throughout the County appeared to peak in the early 1990s; this is also true of the median home prices within the study area. Prices peaked when lake levels were at their lowest elevations. Conversely, in the mid-1990s the real estate market dipped when lake levels had climbed back up to higher levels. This helps to show that a variety of factors, other than lake levels and the attractiveness of Lake Nacimiento, contribute to the value of homes within the study area. For example, as interest rates decrease, buying a home becomes more affordable for many people. This increases demand for housing, often resulting in higher home prices as demand continues to exceed supply. Also, given the increase in numbers of housing units over the past 30 years and the stable rate of seasonal housing versus year-round

housing (70% in year round housing and 30% in seasonal housing), there appears to be a strong attractiveness in year-round housing. This trend indicates that other amenities in addition to lake proximity (not all housing within the Nacimiento area is oriented to the lake, lake views, or boating access) would likely survive changes in lake operations and focus on the rural, open space, agricultural areas and recreational enjoyment of the area.

It should be noted that housing sales are still strong in the Lake Nacimiento area, and with the increased prices of housing in San Luis Obispo, the pricing of housing in Census Tracts 100 and 101 is favorable, particularly with relatively short commutes to Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo (when compared to the urban areas of Los Angeles and San Jose where commutes are greater than two hours). Although pumping of the lake water as proposed would lower lake levels at certain times of the year, the levels during the winter and spring months would still be high and would be an attractive amenity to buyers.

Environmental Justice		
Impact EJ.1	Construction and operational impacts would adversely impact disadvantaged segments of the population in SLO County (FEIR page 5.16-3).	
Mitigation	None	
Findings	Residual impacts are considered to be <i>adverse but not significant</i> (Class III).	
<p>Supportive Evidence: FEIR Table 5.16.1 (FEIR page 5.16-5) contains a summary of Census data for the County and various County parts.</p> <p>The results of the data comparison analysis demonstrate that there is no indication of significant impacts on minorities for the proposed project.</p>		
Criteria	Impact Level	Determination
Impact to <i>minorities above 20 percentage points</i>	-25.1 percentage points	Less than significant impact
Impact to <i>social situations above 20 percentage points</i>	Impacts ranging from -14 to -1 percentage points for language, poverty (-7.4), and unemployment	Less than significant impact
Impact to <i>public safety</i>	Project is not located in a high risk area	Less than significant impact
Impact to <i>public participation and language</i>	Public participation encouraged through distribution of EIR and EIR hearings	Less than significant impact

VIII. Potential Significant Effects Which Have Been Mitigated to a Level of Insignificance

The City Council has concluded that the mitigation measures identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Program (Section XI.) will result in substantial mitigation of the following effects and that these effects are not considered significant or they have been mitigated to a level of insignificance.

Hydrology and Water Quality	
Impact WQ.1	Potentially significant impact of degradation of surface water quality and groundwater quality due to contamination by fuel or other materials related to construction activities. (FEIR page 5.1-33)
Mitigation	Implementation of Mitigation Measures HM-2, HM-3 and HM-5 (see Section 5.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials) would ensure that any fuel spills are dealt with according to the appropriate regulations and according to the Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan outlined in those measures. WQ-1 “No fueling” zones shall be designated wherein fueling of vehicles or equipment is prohibited within 25-feet of all drainages. All equipment used in or near drainages shall be clean and free of leaks and/or grease. Emergency provisions should be in place at all drainage crossings prior to onset of construction to deal with unintentional spills.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project construction water impacts would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: The proximity of some of the proposed project facilities (Intake, portions of the pipeline) to surface water bodies increases the potential hazard associated with fuel or other contaminant spills. If a spill or other release occurred during construction, the contaminant could enter Lake Nacimiento or streams along the pipeline alignment, harming aquatic life and causing general pollution of surface waters.	
Impact WQ.3	Potentially significant impact from reduction of water deliveries during drought and resulting water shortages to the participants (FEIR page 5.1-36).
Mitigation	WQ-2 SLO County or the designated NWP engineer shall: 1) monitor reservoir storage and precipitation patterns, 2) notify MCWRA when conditions are such that releases down to a minimum pool on September 30 th could result in a shortage for the NWP if drought persisted along historical patterns, and 3) recommend an alternative minimum level of September 30 th storage for maintaining NWP deliveries through drought and ensuring SLO County’s first right to water.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measure this impact would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: A reduction of deliveries is defined as when the full annual allocation for NWP participants is not met. Boyle Engineering has prepared a model for evaluating the impacts of NWP water	

deliveries on lake levels (Boyle 2002). Worst case water withdrawal conditions have been assumed in the modeling.

Under an agreement executed in 1959, entitling the San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOFCWCD) to 17,500 af of annual supply from Lake Nacimiento (the 1959 Agreement), the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Monterey County Water Resources Agency) is required to maintain a minimum lake pool of 22,000 af (or 12,000 af above the elevation of the low level outlet works) as of September 30th of each year for the benefit of SLOFCWCD (Boyle 1991). During periods of sustained drought, SLOFCWCD would be allowed to draw lake levels down to the dead pool of 10,000 af.

The terms of the 1959 agreement do not obligate MCWRA to reserve reservoir storage, in excess of the minimum pool, as a drought buffer for SLO County. The terms of the agreement do not require MCWRA to reserve the SLO County entitlement from June reservoir releases. SLO County has the first right to 17,500 afy from the reservoir, however and MCWRA will be expected to manage the reservoir such that SLO County can exercise its right. The SLO County entitlement is annual (i.e. use it or lose it) and does not accumulate from one year to the next.

A worst-case evaluation on reliable water availability for the NWP has been performed assuming a minimum pool on September 30th of the first drought year. Estimates of net reservoir inflow during specific historical droughts were then applied to determine whether or not there is sufficient water for NWP deliveries.

The minimum (worst-case) lake storage reserve available for the NWP on September 30th at the onset of drought is 12,000 af. This minimum storage reserve is guaranteed by the 1959 agreement. The most severe one-year drought in the historical record for lake inflow is 1976–77 (which followed the most severe precipitation drought year of 1975–76). Between October 1976 and September 1977, the upstream gage into the reservoir measured a total of 4150 af. Using a 2:3 ratio, the net reservoir inflow available to the NWP during the 1976–77 year is estimated at approximately 6,220 af. Therefore, under worst-case conditions, a single year drought would result in 18,220 af available for NWP deliveries, and there would be no shortage.

A similar analysis for the worst-case, two-year (1975–77) drought shows the available water for NWP in 1975–76 would be 21,380 af (12,000 af minimum pool storage and 9,380 net inflow). The second year of this drought would begin with only 5,180 af in storage; therefore, the total available water for NWP would be 11,400 af. Under these conditions, there would be approximately 4,800 af deficit in NWP deliveries.

The worst three-year drought (1959–1961) and four-year drought (1987–1990) at the lake, however, show no deficit in NWP deliveries, based on a net inflow analysis. Even in the driest year of these two droughts (1989–90), there was approximately 16,150 af of net reservoir inflow, with ample storage reserve left from 1988–89 to permit full NWP deliveries.

In summary, if the NWP had been operating since 1958, there could have been one year (1976–77) during which there would have been a reduction or interruption of full NWP deliveries. The estimated deficit in deliveries in 1976–77 could have been approximately 4,800 af.

The above worst-case analysis does not take into account reservoir management by MCWRA to uphold SLO County's first right to water, nor does it take into account the historical lake levels on September 30th of each year. A review of lake levels shows that the average lake storage on September 30th between 1959 and 2001 is 139,600 af. There were six occasions where storage on September 30th was less than the

<p>26,800 af (22,000 af minimum pool plus 4,800 af potential deficit in NWP deliveries) needed to pass the above drought reliability analysis. All six of these years (1960, 1961, 1972, 1977, 1989, and 1990) were the second or third years of drought periods, rather than the first year as assumed in the above analysis. In fact, under the historical reservoir management practices, the NWP deliveries would have continued during the 1975-77 drought, since there was adequate water in storage during the first drought year (1975-76).</p> <p>Under NWP operations, MCWRA and SLO County must recognize that releasing all the water down to minimum pool during these drought years could result in an NWP shortage if the drought were to continue. Therefore, although the drought reliability analysis indicates a potentially significant impact of reduced deliveries during drought, the impact can be mitigated to less than significant through reservoir management.</p>	
Impact WQ.4	Potential impact of prolonged (over one week) shutdown of releases from Lake Nacimiento during minimum pool conditions, resulting in water shortages at Water World Resorts and Heritage Ranch (FEIR page 5.1-38).
Mitigation	WQ-3 SLO County shall notify both Heritage Ranch and Water World Resorts as to whether or not releases from the dam are expected to continue when water levels reach the minimum pool under NWP operations.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measure this impact would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Underflow beneath the Nacimiento dam has not been quantified. There were periods, however, of up to several months of no-flow recorded at the stream gage below the dam in the 1960s (prior to operation of the Heritage Ranch gallery well). These records indicate that dam underflow is reduced. Since Heritage Ranch infiltration gallery construction in the mid 1970s, there have been only 8 days of no-flow recorded at the downstream gage. According to the Heritage Ranch water system operator, even a week with no releases through the dam could impact their gallery wells; therefore this impact would be potentially <i>significant</i>.</p> <p>Under the NWP, any releases from the reservoir during minimum pool conditions would require authorization by SLOCFCWCD. SLO County, however, is not obligated to release water from the minimum pool as a means of delivering water to lakeside users. If SLO County does not plan on releasing water from the minimum pool through the dam, Heritage Ranch, and Water World Resorts would need to develop alternatives to their existing supply wells for obtaining lake water from the minimum pool. The impact from a temporary interruption of dam releases could be mitigated by Heritage Ranch and Water World Resorts, provided these two lakeside users have sufficient advance notice.</p>	
Impact WQ.6	Potential degradation of groundwater quality resulting from aquifer discharge using Lake Nacimiento water containing elevated metals concentrations. (FEIR page 5.1-42)
Mitigation	<p>WQ-4 Operation of the intake structure shall be managed to minimize the concentration of total metals in NWP water deliveries.</p> <p>WQ-5 NWP raw water discharge areas shall be designed to allow raw water to percolate and flow through the subsurface a minimum of 150 feet before reaching a</p>

	recovery well.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measures the project construction impacts would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Lake Nacimiento water will mix with alluvial water at Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero, and with surface water in Chorro Reservoir. Water quality changes at each location will vary depending on the ratio of Lake Nacimiento being mixed with the existing waters and the geochemical compatibility of the two water types. Potentially significant water quality impacts to local aquifers include the percolation of waters containing metals, if water is drawn from deeper intervals within the reservoir during drought periods.</p> <p>To evaluate the potential impacts on water quality from mixing Lake Nacimiento water with alluvial aquifers and Chorro Reservoir, a direct comparison of water quality was performed on a constituent-by-constituent basis. The average of all historical water quality measurements taken at Lake Nacimiento were compared to the water quality in the Salinas River alluvium and in Chorro Reservoir.</p> <p>NWP water is lower overall in general mineral constituent concentrations than the natural sources with which it will be mixed. The NWP water has less total dissolved solids, and is over three times softer than the receiving waters. For agricultural uses, the NWP water is suitable for irrigation of all crops without restriction, although there may be a relatively slight to moderate reduction in soil infiltration compared to the receiving waters due to a low sodium adsorption ratio and low electrical conductivity. Mixing NWP water with the Salinas alluvial water and Chorro Reservoir water will improve overall water quality for agricultural uses.</p> <p>With the notable exception of aluminum, iron, and manganese, the NWP water is purer and of superior quality for drinking compared to the Salinas alluvial water and Chorro Reservoir water. Aluminum, iron, and manganese have been detected in water from Lake Nacimiento at levels that exceed the drinking water standards. Chorro Reservoir also contains elevated levels of these metals. The alluvial aquifers, however, do not contain these metals, based on the analytical results.</p> <p>Iron, manganese, aluminum, and mercury are the principal constituents of concern for degrading aquifer water quality by mixing with Lake Nacimiento water. In a stratified reservoir such as Lake Nacimiento, the deeper water is relatively depleted of dissolved oxygen and attains a low Eh (electrode potential) during the summer months. Under these reducing but typically near-neutral pH conditions of the lake environment, metal ions tend to be in reduced complexes. Ferrous iron can be retained in solution in water of this type up to several tens of milligrams per liter. Similarly, groundwaters with pH of 6–8, if sufficiently reducing, can carry ferrous iron concentrations up to approximately 50 mg/l. As soon as iron-bearing water dissolves oxygen from the air, however, the Eh goes up, and iron is oxidized to the ferric form, which precipitates as ferric hydroxide. Manganese concentrations, on the other hand, may be stable at concentrations between 0.1 mg/l and 10 mg/l in near-neutral conditions and at the Eh one might find in surface water exposed to air. Aluminum reaches minimum solubility at near-neutral conditions, and concentrations close to 1 mg/l probably represent particulate matter.</p> <p>Mercury is also a constituent of concern for lake water quality, due to the presence of abandoned mines, which contribute mercury to lake sediments. However, based on the available water analysis, mercury has never been detected above 1 µg/l in lake water (typically non-detected), and under relatively neutral pH conditions, mercury compounds do not readily dissolve in water.</p> <p>Although Lake Nacimiento is not a prolific source of sedimentation, the design of the intake facilities should take into account the need to minimize bottom sediment mobilization and drawing from the lower</p>	

Eh (reducing) environment. The invert elevation of the lowest portion of the existing intake facilities (670-foot elevation) is above the lowest portions of the reservoir (Carollo Engineers 2002). MCWRA currently releases reservoir water through the power plant outlet at an elevation of 670 feet. Depending on the time of year, the quality of water released from Lake Nacimiento will vary. The proposed project calls for the construction of a multi-port intake at Lake Nacimiento to selectively withdraw the highest quality water and avoid mobilizing the bottom sediments and metals associated with deeper water.

The ability of the multi-port intake to work from the highest level of the lake will significantly mitigate the potential for elevated metals concentrations in the raw water.

Water analysis data also shows, however, that a shallower intake level will pump water with higher organism counts. Most organisms are filtered out relatively quickly during subsurface transport, hence the State guideline of a 150-foot setback for domestic supply wells from a surface water body. Disinfection of public drinking water systems also protects against organisms. The metals concentration would be the primary water quality criteria for intake port selection, rather than the lower organism count, because organisms are more easily filtered out in the subsurface.

There will be times when water containing elevated iron, manganese, and aluminum concentrations in reduced complexes would be present in the NWP raw water (no elevated mercury concentrations would be expected, based on the historical data). Mitigation for reduction of these constituents will be part of the discharge facility operation. Natural surface aeration will precipitate the iron as ferric hydroxide. In general, metal complexes tend to be attached to particulates in water at near neutral pH conditions. Suspended particulate metals will be filtered out during percolation of water to the underlying aquifer. Manganese, however, may be less affected by natural aeration and filtration than the other metals.

The highest manganese concentrations in Lake Nacimiento water were from samples collected at the deepest portions of the lake. Water would be drawn from the low-level port when water level had dropped below the two upper level ports. At that time, manganese concentrations in excess of the MCL could appear in the NWP raw water.

The above geochemical discussion is supported by observations at local water systems.

Discharge facilities must typically be set back at least 150 feet from any recovery well to avoid the Surface Water Treatment Rule. It is anticipated, based on the above observations and geochemical considerations, that there will be sufficient time and distance for all of the aluminum and a significant portion of the iron and manganese concentrations to be removed through filtration and precipitation in the subsurface.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969 (CCR Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 13260) mandates that state waters are protected such that activities that may affect waters of the State shall be regulated to attain the highest quality. Under the provisions of this act, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requires that, for any discharge that may affect the quality of surface or groundwater, a Report of Waste Discharge be submitted to the RWQCB. Monitoring and reporting requirements established and enforced by the RWQCB must be implemented to determine if and when discharge of groundwater with Lake Nacimiento water does not adversely affect groundwater quality.

Impact WQ.7	Potential nuisances caused by the presence of vegetation in the ponds and/or eutrophication (FEIR page 5.1-46).
Mitigation	WQ-6 Clear vegetation in pond areas during construction and design ponds to allow

	for periodic drying and cleaning.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project construction water impacts would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Potential impacts to surface water quality in the percolation ponds could be significant if adverse odors are created and/or floating material is noted. Both odor and floating material are noted in the Central Coast Basin Plan inland water quality objectives as controlled constituents. Increased total organic carbon (TOC) levels resulting from decomposing vegetation is important because when TOCs come into contact with chlorine they can react and form THMs.</p> <p>Surface water quality in the discharge ponds could be degraded if percolation ponds are not maintained properly. Removal of vegetation within the percolation ponds should be conducted prior to filling, since decomposing vegetation could pose a nuisance. Furthermore, the introduction of warmer near-surface water from Lake Nacimiento into the percolation ponds could cause an increase in the frequency and density of algal blooms (eutrophication), also affecting water quality. If substantial vegetation remained in the pond area during the filling period, it would begin to decompose when inundated, causing an increase in levels of TOC, a measure of natural organic compounds in the water. When chlorine and TOC react together during the typical water treatment disinfection process, THMs are formed. THMs in high enough doses have been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals and may pose dangers to humans. As water is withdrawn for use, the TOC would react with chlorine during treatment, thus increasing THM concentrations.</p> <p>The project’s proposed typical river discharge pond system consists of three ponds to allow for maintenance such as discing/plowing and weed control (Carollo Engineers 2002). These procedures should mitigate the adverse vegetation/algae impact to the below significance level.</p>	
Impacts WQ.8 and WQ.9	<p>Impacts from lack of sufficient capacity of the Paso Robles Discharge Area to take full NWP deliveries;</p> <p>and</p> <p>Impacts from lack of sufficient capacity of the City of Paso Robles’ Thunderbird well field to extract the total combined water right to Salinas River underflow after adding the NWP water right (FEIR page 5.1-47).</p>
Mitigation	<p>WQ-7 Operate as a Discharge Area, with facility design that incorporates direct mixing and off-site transport of NWP water with Salinas River flows and surfacing underflow.</p> <p>WQ-8 Develop new source capacity for underflow recovery. Assess environmental impacts in supplemental study. This mitigation is not required until such time as the City of Paso Robles desires to do so.</p>
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project construction water impacts would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The raw water option for the NWP will distribute raw lake water to three discharge areas along the Salinas River as follows: Atascadero Discharge and Recovery Area – 3.60 MGD maximum flow rate.</p>	

Templeton Discharge Area – 0.29 MGD maximum flow rate.

Paso Robles Discharge Area – 4.64 MGD maximum flow rate.

The Atascadero discharge and recovery facility has been studied in greater detail than the Paso Robles or the Templeton discharge areas due to the need by the AMWC for a near-complete recovery of the actual discharged water. In contrast, the Templeton CSD and the City of Paso Robles do not need to recover the actual NWP raw water, but instead will exchange the discharge water quantity for a right to pump an equal quantity of water from the Salinas River underflow.

At the Atascadero Discharge and Recovery Area, 3,200 afy of Lake Nacimiento water would be extracted via recovery wells and then disinfected prior to distribution of the water to the public. Treatment involves filtration by allowing the water to naturally move through older alluvial terrace deposits and Salinas River alluvium, and chlorination at the wellheads or at existing chlorination and blending facilities at the nearby Sycamore well field. A tie into County Service Area 23 will convey 200 afy to the community of Santa Margarita.

Cleath & Associates originally investigated the hydrogeology of the Atascadero Discharge and Recovery Area in 1997 (Nacimiento Water Discharge and Recovery Concept, Draft Feasibility Study, April, 1997). The study included a field investigation, monitoring well construction and testing, and ground water modeling. The results of the study showed that the discharge and recovery concept is feasible.

In September 2002, additional drilling was conducted in the vicinity of the discharge and recovery area. The drilling program improved the definition of an ancestral (buried) river channel through the area. The new information will alter the specific placement of discharge ponds and recovery wells, but the concept remains feasible.

There are approximately 1.5 acres of available discharge area on an alluvial terrace above the Salinas River, and an additional 1.5+ acres of available discharge area outside of the active river channel in the floodplain.

Discharge would be via percolation ponds, and groundwater recovery would be via water wells drilled into the ancestral river channel a minimum of 150 feet from of the discharge areas. The capacity of the discharge areas to accept NWP water has been evaluated using MODFLOW, a widely accepted groundwater flow model developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. MODFLOW was run under steady-state (long-term equilibrium) conditions.

Depth to water beneath the approximate 797-foot elevation alluvial terrace during normal conditions is approximately 34 feet, and 13 feet beneath the 776-foot elevation floodplain. The terrace (above the ancestral channel) is comprised of coarse sand and fine gravel, with little to no fines (Cleath 1997). The ancestral channel is filled with loose sand and gravel and extends down to a base elevation of between 711 and 723 feet above sea level. The floodplain is generally coarse sand with some clay lenses. Recovery wells are estimated to have a capacity of 500+ gpm, and the hydraulic conductivity of the ancestral channel deposits is at least 200 ft/day, based on the pumping test conducted in 1997. With four recovery wells operating, the groundwater modeling shows that the elevated terrace can accept the 3,200 afy NWP deliveries spread over a half-acre area, with a maximum 13-foot rise beneath the center of the pond due to mounding of the percolating water. With 1.5 acres available on the terrace, the entire discharge operation may be possible at that location, pending pilot tests.

The lower discharge area is approximately 10 feet above the river channel, and does not flood seasonally. If the floodplain is used for additional percolation area, there could be some surfacing of water in the adjacent active river channel, depending on the exact area needed and the available setback from the river.

Surfacing discharge water may lead accelerated erosion of the channel bank. Extraction facilities should be operated to preclude these impacts.

Given the options available for pond placement and the presence of the highly permeable ancestral river channel for recovery wells, there will be sufficient discharge and recovery capacity at the Atascadero Discharge and Recovery Area to successfully implement the raw water option.

At the Templeton Discharge Area, raw Lake Nacimiento water would be allowed to percolate into the floodplain alluvium, and mix with alluvial water. The recovery will be indirect, using the existing Templeton CSD Smith River well, located approximately 1,700 downstream of the discharge area. This well is 65 feet deep and not subject to the California SWTR. Templeton SCD currently operates the well only during the wet season.

By adding NWP water to the Salinas River underflow, the Templeton CSD will obtain the right to extract the same quantity of water from the underflow. The Smith River well has the capacity to extract the full 250 afy NWP deliveries.

The Templeton Discharge Area is situated approximately 9 feet above the Salinas River channel. Depth to water during normal fall conditions is approximately 12–13 feet. The surficial soils at the discharge area, based on observed stratification in the stream bank, include dark brown sandy silt and silty sand with gravel through approximately four feet depth. Below four feet depth is fine to coarse sand. Percolation ponds at this site would require removal or replacement of the top two feet of soil, and possibly the top four feet, to allow unrestricted percolation into the clean sands. Two inactive wells are present in the adjacent river channel.

The capacity of the discharge area was evaluated using a MODFLOW groundwater model. Assumptions for the model included 250 afy discharge, a hydraulic conductivity of 100 feet/day, an initial alluvial saturated thickness of 70 feet, and a percolating area of 2,500 square feet. The resulting model calculates a four-foot rise in the water table beneath the discharge area, however, the percolating water may daylight from the bank of the active river channel and rising water could surface in the channel. This may lead to accelerated erosion of the channel bank. To avoid these impacts, an estimated 100-foot setback from the riverbank would be recommended, based on groundwater modeling (there is no setback under the currently proposed project). This would place the discharge area within the area identified for the truck staging area.

At the Paso Robles Discharge Area, 4,000 afy of Lake Nacimiento water will be allowed to percolate into the floodplain alluvium, and mix with alluvial water. There will be no recovery of actual NWP water. The City of Paso Robles has a permit (No. 5956; Application 10294), to divert 8 cfs (approximately 3,590 gpm) from the Salinas River underflow with a priority date of October 10, 1941. By percolating the NWP water into the Salinas River underflow, the City anticipates increasing its right to pump by an additional 4,000 afy. Assuming no peaking, the additional water right would be equivalent to 5.5 cfs (approximately 2,480 gpm).

The existing Thunderbird well field, located approximately 2,000 upstream of the discharge area, would be used to exercise the City's right to pump the additional water.

There are four active wells in the Thunderbird well field. For practical purposes, it is assumed that all the water extracted from these wells is underflow. The total capacity of the well field is a nominal 4,325 gpm. This capacity is 735 gpm more than the current water right (permit 5956) of 3,590 gpm. Therefore, the NWP deliveries will provide 735 gpm more instantaneous flow capacity to the City, with the remaining water right held in reserve. An inactive City well field exists that taps river

underflow downstream of the Paso Robles Discharge Area (Ronconi field); however, those wells are under the Surface Water Treatment Rule and would require a treatment plant for use. They are also old wells and casing deterioration may be such that they require replacement. Production at the Thunderbird well field has been maximized by existing wells (Carollo Engineers 1993). The City would need to treat water from the Ronconi wells or develop a new well field to realize the full benefit of the NWP raw water option.

The Paso Robles Discharge Area is a 3.4-acre site in the active Salinas River channel. This is a significantly different hydrologic setting than either the Atascadero or Templeton sites. A level survey was conducted across the Paso Robles Discharge area. The lowest elevation through the discharge area is a river channel meander that follows the east bank of the river and is 2.5 feet higher than lowest channel elevation west of the discharge area. Close to half of the discharge area is within 5 feet of the base of the active river channel elevation. Portions of the discharge area will be subject to seasonal flooding. Berms cannot protect against stream underflow rising to surface within the discharge areas. In a wet year, it is virtually certain that the entire area will be washed out.

The raw water option assumes that NWP water will be percolated into the ground. This is also part of the mitigation strategy for the filtration and precipitation of metals. The Paso Robles Discharge Area will not be available for percolating NWP water when flows have breached the pond berms or when stream underflow has risen into the base of the ponds.

The water level at the discharge area during normal fall conditions is estimated at 7-10 feet deep. The capacity of the Paso Robles discharge area was evaluated using a MODFLOW groundwater model. Assumptions for the model included 4000 afy discharge, a hydraulic conductivity of 200 ft/day (based on a pumping tests at Thunderbird well #10), an initial alluvial saturated thickness of 100 feet (based on Thunderbird well field data), and an active percolating area of 1.14 acres. The resulting model shows a 10.5 foot rise in water levels at the center of the percolation pond, which is too high, given the 7–10 foot depth to water. At 3,000 afy, the mound is 8 feet at the center of the pond, and at 2,500 afy, the mound reaches 6.5 feet and does not rise into the pond. As mentioned earlier, however, the pond area may not be available for use during three or four months out of the year, which would further reduce the capacity of the area for NWP discharge.

Under the current NWP project description using three ponds (one active and two drying), a flow rate of 1550 gpm could be maintained for an estimated 8 months out of the year, for a total NWP delivery of 1,670 afy. As mentioned above, this assumes that the NWP water must be percolated into the ground at the Discharge Area. However, the area is in the active river channel, so if it doesn't percolate at the Discharge Area, it will flow downstream and percolate somewhere else. From a standpoint of exchanging the NWP water for a right to pump Salinas River underflow, there is no difference between discharging NWP as surface flow or percolating into the underflow. The filtration capacity for precipitated metals is also not necessary if the water is not intended to be recovered at the Discharge Area. Lake Nacimiento water has been flowing historically into the Salinas River without restriction, and there would be no change in water quality impacts from the current conditions if the Paso Robles Discharge Area was reclassified as a Discharge Area, with no percolation requirement. Therefore, the full NWP allocation may be discharged into the Salinas River system at the location selected for Paso Robles. A redesign of the in-stream facilities would be needed to minimize the effects of regular flooding.

Geological Resources

Impact GS.1	Ground rupture along the Rinconada fault could damage project facilities (FEIR page
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	5.2-18).
Mitigation	GS-1 The Applicant shall conduct investigations to further clarify the ground-rupture potential and location of fault trace(s) of the Rinconada fault in the project area. Implement recommendations of the reports of these investigations in the design of the project.
Findings	Implementation of the measure recommended above would reduce the potential impacts of surface rupture on the Rinconada fault to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: The CGS has designated the Rinconada as a B-fault, and mitigation of potential, future earthquake shaking resulting from movement on this fault will be taken into account in design of the proposed project under the 1997 Uniform Building Code. However, there is now no substantial evidence to indicate that this fault has ruptured the ground surface in the last 11,000 years, and the CGS has not zoned the fault under the Alquist-Priolo Act. Therefore the need to mitigate for potential ground rupture is uncertain in the absence of further investigation of site-specific conditions. While the potential for surface rupture and damage to project facilities is highly unlikely, potential damage to facilities in the event of an earthquake on this fault could be substantial should surface rupturing occur.	
Impact GS.2	Locating the Rocky Canyon Water Storage Tank and Happy Valley Pump Station near the Rinconada fault zone may result in poor foundation conditions (FEIR page 5.2-18).
Mitigation	GS-2 Prior to final design, conduct investigations as listed in GS-1. In addition, to provide a method of secondary containment for the stored water Rocky Canyon Storage Tank shall be constructed as a buried, concrete tank.
Findings	Implementation of the mitigation measure would reduce the potential adverse impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence The Rocky Canyon Storage Tank and Happy Valley Pump Station are proposed to be located near the Rinconada fault zone, and the potential for poor foundation conditions may pose significant impacts at this location.	
Impact GS.3	Excavation in rock or soils containing asbestos may cause risk to human health (FEIR page 5.2-20).
Mitigation	GS-3 Prior to construction, an evaluation of areas of serpentinite outcrops or serpentine-rich soils shall be made by a qualified professional such as a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) as to whether such conditions represent a threat to human health. If so, a safety program shall be initiated and shall include providing personal protective equipment to workers and a worker education program. In addition to the dust reduction measures described in Air Quality, Section 5.4.4, (Mitigation Measure AQ-1), all applicable dust reduction measures outlined in the following document shall be implemented: 17 CCR Section 93105. Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations.

	The Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) ATCM requirements may include but are not limited to 1) an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan which must be approved by the APCD before construction begins, and 2) an Asbestos Health and Safety Program will also be required for some projects (http://www.slocleanair.org/business/asbestos.asp)
Findings	Implementation of the mitigation measure would reduce the potential adverse impacts to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence	Serpentine-rich rock (serpentinite) and soil units constitute a significant impact where they contain a magnesium-silicate mineral called chrysotile, an important source of commercial asbestos. Airborne asbestos fibers are known to cause risk to human health, and the potential exists for human exposure during excavation of serpentine-rich rock and soil units. Several SLO County areas contain rocks with naturally occurring asbestos (USGS surveys).

Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation	
Impact DE.1	Potentially significant impact of changes to surface water flow patterns during construction (FEIR page 5.3-19).
Mitigation	<p>DE-1 An Erosion Control Plan shall be prepared in conjunction with the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to devise specific soil erosion control measures. The plan would include but not be limited to the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction activities through areas of concern (i.e., rivers, streams, large drainages) shall be scheduled during the dry season (April 15 to October 15) to reduce erosion, or shall implement measure DE-2 to minimize potential impacts. - Revegetation of areas disturbed or cleared during construction shall occur after construction is completed and before the rainy season. <p>DE-2 Direct any diverted flows to in-channel sedimentation basins that will trap fine soil materials before diverted flows are released downstream. If the cross-section of the channel is narrowed by the diversion, provide erosion protection measures at the downstream outlet point. Plan diversion structures to be in service for the shortest possible time, and remove them as soon as construction is completed. Have all diversion facilities designed by a qualified civil engineer and base the design on the best available streamflow information. Before designing in-channel sedimentation basins, consult with a qualified biologist to identify, and avoid to the degree feasible, sensitive biological resources such as wetlands and sensitive wildlife habitat (i.e., steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and breeding riparian bird habitat). If wetland areas are impacted by these erosion control measures, mitigation will be required by the regulatory agencies.</p> <p>DE-3 Inspect diversion facilities daily and repair all damage immediately.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Construction would utilize stream diversion techniques (Carollo 2002). If during construction stream flow patterns are changed (diverted), and high stream flows occur, areas normally not	

<p>subjected to water flow could be inundated or eroded. If the stream channel was constricted, higher velocity flows and/or flooding could be created.</p>	
Impact DE.2	Potentially significant impact of damage to construction sites if flood flows occur while a pipeline is being installed in a streambed (FEIR page 5.3-20).
Mitigation	<p>The proposed mitigation measures are considered necessary whenever a chance of rain, however slight, is forecast by the National Weather Service or local news media.</p> <p>DE-4 Prepare in advance and have construction crews ready to implement an emergency construction site securing procedure, which shall include personnel and equipment evacuation, trench closure, and materials removal procedures.</p> <p>DE-5 Heavy equipment and construction activities shall be restricted to the defined construction ROW. Equipment access and construction through drainages should be conducted from the banks rather than within the drainage.</p> <p>DE-6 Do not store construction materials or spoils within the channel or overbanks.</p> <p>DE-7 Obtain weather updates on a daily basis, or more frequently if inclement conditions are threatening.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Portions of construction would be in stream beds (Carollo 2002). During construction in streambeds, equipment, materials, and the pipeline trench could be damaged if high flows occurred in a streambed and the equipment could not be secured in time.</p>	
Impact DE.3	Potentially significant impacts to surface waters of increased turbidity and sedimentation, and to groundwater recharge in streams crossed and paralleled due to clearing, grading, trenching, and backfilling activities (FEIR page 5.3-21).
Mitigation	<p>DE-8 Erosion and sedimentation impacts shall be mitigated by employing standard erosion control procedures such as use of silt fencing, sandbagging, straw bales, waddles, water bars, diversion ditches, and stream bank stabilization procedures. In addition, drainages shall be spanned to the maximum degree feasible, subject to engineering or other concerns, in an attempt to avoid direct and indirect impacts.</p> <p>DE-9 Provide in-channel sedimentation basins when constructing in a stream bed as previously directed. Monitor water leaving the sedimentation basin to satisfy the requirements of the RWQCB. If standards are exceeded, cease all construction activities in the stream bed and do not resume activities until the problem is corrected to the satisfaction of the RWQCB representative. Following construction activities, the stream channel will be restored to near its original condition.</p> <p>DE-10 A vegetation restoration plan shall be prepared and implemented by a qualified restoration biologist and native plant horticulturist for the various vegetation communities and habitats that would be temporarily disturbed during project construction but could be restored onsite.</p>

	DE-11 Store excavated soil and stockpiles of imported fill outside of the channel and setback at least 20 feet from the active channel banks. Protect stockpiles of loose material with secured tarps and provide silt fencing or straw bales down gradient of the stockpiles.
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Once an area is cleared of protective vegetation, or loose material is created from trenching operations, the potential for erosion increases. Soil materials eroded or excavated from the site or imported fill brought into the area could be carried into wetland areas or into streams and passed downstream into critical areas.	
Impact DE.4	Potentially significant impact of erosion and downstream sedimentation from a pipeline rupture (FEIR page 5.3-21).
Mitigation	<p>DE-12 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall develop and implement a plan providing the emergency response and repair procedures for an accidental rupture. The plan shall include remedial erosion control measures for areas downstream of the rupture.</p> <p>DE-13 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall implement a regular inspection and maintenance program to detect possible problems with pipeline integrity.</p> <p>DE-14 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall provide thorough inspection of the pipeline materials and construction techniques while the pipelines are being installed. The County shall specify the use of materials with proven reliability only.</p> <p>DE-15 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall design checkpoints and shut-off valves for incorporation into the pipelines such that critical reaches which may be subject to damage (e.g. a suspended crossing) can be isolated.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: In the unlikely event of a total pipeline rupture, a large volume of released water could cause a great amount of localized erosion because water is discharged under high pressure onto the ground surface. As eroded sediments move downstream, sedimentation within stream channels would also result.	
Impact DE.5	Potentially significant impact of scouring occurring in stream channels that expose buried pipeline or undermine suspended pipe crossing abutments or cable caissons (FEIR page 5.3-22).
Mitigation	<p>DE-16 The final engineering design shall determine the pipeline depth below the maximum scour depth at underground stream crossings of major streams. The pipe shall be reinforced beneath the active stream channel. The pipeline depth, at underground crossings of seasonal creeks, shall be a minimum of 2 feet below the maximum scour depth.</p> <p>DE-17 Suspended pipe crossing abutments and cable caissons shall be installed outside of stream channels.</p>

Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: At the pipeline stream crossings, deep scouring in channels that expose the buried pipe could result in pipe rupture. Suspended pipe crossing abutments and anchor cables supporting suspended pipe crossings may be susceptible to stream scouring at high flows. Scour that washes out the abutments or cable anchors could result in the suspended crossing failure and pipe rupture.	
Impact DE.6	Potentially significant impact of increased or concentrated storm runoff flowing onto erodible soils from impervious surfaces (FEIR page 5.3-23).
Mitigation	DE-18 Impervious surfaces should be either designed to dissipate runoff uniformly, or drainage measures should be designed to convey runoff from impervious surfaces so that concentrated flows do not discharge onto unprotected slopes. DE-19 Areas disturbed during construction should be revegetated, as soon as is practical, prior to the beginning of the rainy season.
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Various impervious to water surfaces would be created at the NWP facilities. These are concrete equipment pads, tanks, paved roads, parking lots, and buildings. Erosion of surface materials is likely to occur if concentrated storm runoff is allowed to flow onto erodible soil from impervious surfaces.	
Impact DE.7	Potentially significant impact of high river flow or bank erosion resulting in damage to branch pipelines or discharge piping in the three discharge areas (FEIR page 5.3-23).
Mitigation	DE-20 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall implement a regular inspection and maintenance program to detect and repair damaged discharge piping, and to monitor bank erosion. Annual repairs or repairs following high stream flows should be anticipated as long as the system is in place. DE-21 Design discharge piping in river channel to be flexible or to have flexible couplings between pipe joints. DE-22 Discharge system shall be designed so that concentrated flows do not discharge onto an unprotected river bank.
Findings	Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant impacts to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: The three raw water discharge areas are located adjacent to or within the active channel of the Salinas River. In the event of high flow damage to the piping either by stream bank erosion or by high stream flow could cause discharge to occur outside of the designed discharge area. In the event of high stream flow on the Salinas River, the discharge facilities at Paso Robles could be destroyed and would have to be rebuilt, thereby requiring additional construction in order to maintain the facilities in an operable condition. It should be anticipated that such construction would be required periodically during the entire life of the proposed project. Increased bank erosion rates and downstream sedimentation may	

occur where discharge is located on stream terraces.

Air Quality	
Impact AQ.2	Operation of the project facilities would generate air emissions that could impact air quality in the area (FEIR page 5.4-16).
Mitigation	<p>AQ-5 The Applicant shall procure propane-powered, or low-NOx emergency generators to lower potential NOx emissions.</p> <p>AQ-6 Should the Applicant utilize diesel-powered generators, the Applicant shall install diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), catalyzed diesel particulate filters (CDPF) or other District-approved emission reduction retrofit devices.</p>
Findings	Residual impact from operational emissions is adverse but <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence</p> <p>Most of the operations would be electrically powered (e.g., pumps). Commuter vehicles, delivery trucks and emergency generators would not have significant amounts of emissions. Calculations are presented in the FEIR.</p>	

Noise	
Impact N.1	Construction noise would temporarily increase ambient daytime noise levels along the pipeline route and near the pump station and storage tank sites (FEIR page 5.5-14).
Mitigation	<p>N-1 Equipment enclosures/noise barriers shall be used in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (per station numbers in Table 5.5.7) to reduce the noise generated by stationary equipment (i.e., generators, pumps, and other stationary construction equipment) during daytime hours.</p> <p>N-2 Construction activities shall be limited to 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays except when local governments want pipeline construction through nonresidential commercial areas to occur at night to avoid disrupting daytime commerce and traffic. Construction equipment maintenance shall be limited to the same hours. Non-noise generating construction activities such as interior painting are not subject to these restrictions. Signs stating these restrictions shall be provided by the Applicant and posted onsite. Signs shall be in place prior to issuance of Land Use Permit and throughout grading and construction activities. Directional drilling shall be exempt from this mitigation measure only if a drilling event is predicted to take more than 12 hours and is begun promptly at the beginning of the work day.</p> <p>N-3 Provide two-week advance notice to sensitive receptors in Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, Santa Margarita, and San Luis Obispo by mail and newspaper. The announcements shall state where and when construction will be scheduled. It shall also provide tips on reducing noise intrusion, e.g. closing windows facing the construction area.</p> <p>N-4 Maintain proper mufflers on all internal combustion and vehicle engines to</p>

	reduce noise to the maximum extent feasible.
Findings	The impact would be considered <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence	
<p>Analysis of the pipeline route indicated that noise-generating machinery would be working close to several sensitive receptors such as schools, hospitals and residences. Noise generated by construction of the 66-mile pipeline would result in increased ambient noise levels. This increase would be limited to the daytime hours and would be limited to the duration of the construction phase of the project. Within 500 feet of the pipeline alignment, construction noise levels would measure approximately 75 dBA in areas where the ambient daytime noise level is less than 70 dBA, which is most of the pipeline route. These increases in most areas would result in a change of at least 20 dBA over the baseline noise levels. Noise propagation calculations indicate noise levels at some receptors could reach 85 dBA. The mitigation measures would limit noise impacts experienced by sensitive receptors to levels below the significance criterion.</p>	
Impact N.3	Periodic testing and emergency use of generators would increase short-term ambient noise levels near the pump stations (FEIR page 5.5-21).
Mitigation	N-7 Periodic testing of generators shall be performed during daylight hours only.
Findings	The impact would be <i>insignificant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence	
<p>Noise propagation modeling indicate that at Pump Station 3, the day, evening, and night noise levels would be increased by 1, 2, and 6 dBA to 56, 54, and 51 dBA. The resulting nighttime hourly noise levels of 51 dBA could exceed the hourly significance criterion for stationary noise sources. Generator operation would not exceed the daytime significance criteria. Nighttime operation would occur only in emergency situations.</p>	

Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
Impact HM.2	Earth-moving operations during construction could uncover contaminated soils and other hazardous materials, including naturally occurring asbestos, creating health risks to construction workers and public (FEIR page 5.6-).
Mitigation	<p>HM-1 During the design phase of the project corridor, SLO County or a qualified professional retained by the County shall perform a detailed characterization of the nature and extent of hazardous materials contamination in the project corridor for high-risk sites identified previously in this report. This investigation, known as Phase I and Phase II hazardous materials site assessments, shall be performed after selection of the preferred alternative, i.e., the alternative to be implemented, and prior to property acquisition or construction activities. The site characterization would be conducted in accordance with CalEPA DTSC standards and guidance, such as the Scientific and Technical Standards for Hazardous Waste Sites (DTSC 1990).</p> <p>At any given site, investigation may either reveal that contamination exists and is of concern, that remediation has already occurred, that the extent of contamination is</p>

	<p>extremely limited, or that no contamination has occurred.</p> <p>If contamination were identified during the site investigation, SLO County would report the contamination to the appropriate regulatory agencies. The lead or design agency may decide to re-route the pipeline; however, landowners would be responsible to perform additional investigation and mitigation or cleanup under review of responsible regulatory agencies, as necessary. Mitigation and remediation activities shall generally be completed before construction could proceed at any given site. However, for some types of contamination, particularly where fuel has leaked into soil and groundwater, remediation and clean up activities may be ongoing throughout construction due to the lengthy recovery process and difficulty of fully extracting certain pollutants. Within Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo lands any hazardous materials handling/management shall be done consistent with the Camp's Standard Operating Procedures for Environmental Protection.</p> <p>HM-2 A Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Contingency Plan shall be prepared before any excavation or trenching work is commenced. The Plan may contain but may not be limited to the following actions that must be taken by the design or Lead Agency in the case that hazardous materials are encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notify owner, engineer, and other affected persons.- Notify such agencies as are required to be notified by laws and regulations within the time stipulated by such laws and regulations.- Designate a certified industrial hygienist to issue pertinent instructions and recommendations for protection of workers and other affected persons' health and safety.- Identify and contact subcontractors and licensed personnel qualified to undertake storage, removal, transportation, disposal, and other remedial work required by, and in accordance with, laws and regulations.- Forward to engineer, copies of reports, permits, receipts, and other documentation related to remedial work.- Assume responsibility for worker health and safety, including health and safety of subcontractors and their workers.- Instruct workers on recognition and reporting of materials that may be hazardous.- File requests for adjustments to contract time and contract price due to the finding of hazardous materials in the work site in accordance with conditions of contract.- Minimize delays by continuing performance of the work in areas not affected by hazardous materials operations. <p>If contaminated soils or other hazardous materials are encountered during any soil moving operation during construction (e.g., trenching, excavation, grading), construction shall be halted and the HazMat Contingency Plan implemented.</p> <p>HM-3 In the event of an accidental release of a hazardous material (including fuel spills) during construction, the lead or design agency shall determine whether the release is reportable pursuant to any local, State, or Federal law, and if so would</p>
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	<p>notify the regulatory agency to which the report should be submitted. The lead or design agency shall adhere to procedures listed below, which describe additional procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental release of a hazardous material. The purpose of the response procedures is to minimize exposure and risk to public health and safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lead or design agency would implement and coordinate with local jurisdiction on procedures for immediate evacuation of persons from the vicinity of the spill; - promptly notify appropriate personnel and responsible agencies of the incident, such as the local fire department; - terminate NWP operations and shut-off power, if necessary; and - cooperate with responding agencies. <p>Releases may not be of a “hazardous waste” and accordingly may not have to be managed as such. However, substances not classified as hazardous wastes may still be subject to restrictive handling requirements and would be managed in accordance with such requirements.</p>
Findings	The residual impacts would be <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence</p> <p>The pipeline route is not close to any Federal designated Superfund site. The 100-foot environmental corridor of the pipeline has been surveyed, and places with potential contamination have been identified by the project engineer companies (Boyle Engineers and Carollo Engineers). The pipeline ROW is located close to several sites that have a potential for ground contamination, such as the Tosco (formerly Unocal Oil) petroleum pumping facility near Santa Margarita; other ground contamination could be encountered. In case if any contamination or hazardous materials are encountered the Applicant proposed to comply with all the applicable regulations for handling and disposal.</p>	
Impact HM.3	During construction, hazardous utilities could be damaged by construction equipment. This could expose construction workers and public to hazardous materials transported by the damaged pipelines (FEIR page 5.6-18).
Mitigation	<p>HM-4 Prior to final design stage, the lead or design agency shall conduct a detailed utilities survey, including contacting the respective utility representatives, to accurately locate, to the extent possible, Southern California Gas lines, sewage lines and storm drains, as well as buried transmission lines within the corridor of the proposed pipeline route. The lead or design agency shall consult with Tosco and Chevron to confirm the locations of their oil and gas pipelines in the project area.</p> <p>Underground Service Alert shall be notified prior to breaking ground for construction of the pipeline so that any existing subsurface structures can be properly identified. The contractor shall be required to keep the notification current.</p>
Findings	With the mitigation measures, residual impacts are considered <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: There are many well-developed and long-proven effective mitigation measures</p>	

that could be implemented to bring this impact to below significance level. The pipeline route has been chosen with the goal to avoid conflicts with the existing utilities as much as possible. For instance, when the pipeline passes near the Tosco (formerly Unocal) pumping facility (in Santa Margarita), the route would cross the railroad to be on the opposite side from the facility to avoid several oil pipes and sumps located in the vicinity of the facility (Carollo Engineers 2002). California State law requires any excavator to contact a regional notification center at least 2 days prior to breaking ground. One such center is Underground Service Alert, a non-profit service organization supported by utility companies. Excavators are required to probe and expose the underground facilities by hand prior to using power equipment.

Biological Resources	
Impact BR.1	Potentially significant impacts to terrestrial biological resources from heavy construction machinery and various construction activities (FEIR page 5.7-19).
Mitigation	<p>BR-1 The Lead or Responsible Agency shall retain a qualified biologist(s) (project biologist) to conduct and oversee construction monitoring that pertain to biological resource protection, act as the liaison between the Lead or Responsible Agency and the construction contractor(s), and to ensure compliance with the mitigation program, such as monitoring all construction activities in biologically sensitive areas and scheduling and/or implementing preconstruction surveys, if determined to be necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator. The project biologist shall be selected based on demonstrated knowledge and experience with the species potentially occurring in the project area. The project biologist shall inform the County monitoring representative as soon as possible, and the County representative shall have the authority to stop construction activities if there is eminent threat to the listed species, or to delay construction activities until appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented. In addition, all project personnel who conduct work at Camp Roberts and/or Camp San Luis Obispo must attend an environmental awareness briefing conducted by California Army Reserve National Guard (CARNG) Environmental staff prior to beginning work.</p> <p>BR-2 A Biology Education Program for Contractors shall be implemented to ensure that all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological sensitivities associated with this project. The program shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and shall be a requirement for all construction personnel. This program shall focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the purpose for resource protection; b) identification of sensitive resources areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on plans and by flags or fencing); c) sensitive construction practices; d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise during the construction process; e) ramifications of noncompliance. <p>BR-3 The project biologist and the project engineer shall clearly designate “sensitive resource zones” on the project maps and construction plans. Sensitive resource zones are defined as areas where construction would be limited to a 15- to 30-foot corridor, depending on the particular construction requirements, to avoid</p>

	<p>impacts to special status biological resources.</p> <p>The project biologist shall demark the limits of sensitive populations on the project plans, including as feasible, an adequate buffer area to avoid direct and indirect impacts. If determined necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator, survey work to demark sensitive resource zones shall be conducted during the appropriate survey window to confirm sensitive species (the exact survey timing would be determined appropriately for each specific species, and depending on the rain conditions). During construction, temporary fencing shall be erected under supervision of the project biologist to provide protection within the sensitive resource zones.</p> <p>BR-4 Within sensitive resource zones, construction equipment work shall be conducted observing the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heavy equipment and construction activities shall be restricted to the defined construction ROW.- Vehicles and personnel shall use existing access roads to the maximum degree feasible. Any off road travel within Camp Roberts or Camp San Luis Obispo shall be subject for approval by Range Control and the Environmental Directorate. Where additional access is required, all vehicles shall use the same route, even if this requires heavy equipment to back out of such areas (safety permitting). All access routes outside of existing roads or the construction easement shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction, delineated on the construction plans, and reviewed by the project biologist. Additional access roads shall avoid, to the degree possible, sensitive habitat areas or special status plant populations.- Topsoil shall be segregated by windrow or stockpiled in disturbed areas without native vegetation, special status plant populations, or special status plant communities. These stockpile areas shall be located in previously disturbed areas, delineated on the construction plans, and reviewed by the project biologist.- Any expanded work areas requested, such as construction and vehicle access, width of construction corridor exceeding 100-foot width, or storage and staging areas, shall require the following review procedures: the limits of expanded work areas proposed will be depicted on construction drawings and reviewed by the project biologist; if necessary, and as determined by the County Environmental Coordinator, all expanded work areas shall be surveyed by biologists for sensitive resources during the appropriate survey time window (e.g., the month of May for most status special status plant species); the expanded work areas that impact sensitive resources may be altered to the degree feasible to avoid any additional impacts; and sensitive resource zones will be established, as described above. <p>BR-5 Final design of the project shall incorporate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staging areas shall be located in disturbed habitat, to the maximum degree feasible. Staging areas are prohibited within sensitive habitat areas. All staging areas shall be delineated on the construction plans and reviewed by the project biologist.- As feasible and consistent with preliminary project design, plan placement of the
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	<p>proposed pipeline beneath existing roads and ROWs and away from undeveloped and previously undisturbed areas.</p> <p>BR-6 The Applicant shall prepare a Vegetation Replacement/Restoration Plan (VRRP) for vegetative communities that are significantly impacted and that are to be permanently removed from project sites. The Plan shall be prepared by the project sponsors for the various vegetative communities and habitats that would be temporarily disturbed during project construction but could be restored onsite. A qualified restoration biologist and native plant horticulturist shall be retained to supervise or participate in the design, site preparation, installation, maintenance, and monitoring of all revegetation or site restoration programs. VRRP shall include revegetation success criteria and measures to ensure after revegetation monitoring and replanting in case the revegetation is not successful.</p> <p>The part of the VRRP developed for lands within Camp Roberts or Camp San Luis Obispo shall be reviewed and approved by the CARNG Environmental Directorate.</p> <p>BR-7 Construction through sensitive areas shall be scheduled to minimize potential impacts to biological resources. A specific schedule shall be developed by the project biologist and changed if necessary. The guidelines for this schedule shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to protect breeding sensitive bird species in wetland areas or drainages schedule construction only from mid-September through October, provided that no significant rainfall occurs within this time-frame. However, if breeding bird surveys are conducted from March 15 through June 15, and no breeding birds are detected, then this window could be widened to include July and August.- to protect Tiger salamander habitat (i.e., grasslands) avoid construction in March and April.- to protect Steelhead trout habitat avoid construction in the habitat from November through May.- to protect California red-legged frog habitat (wetlands) avoid construction in wetlands from December to August. <p>Mitigation measures to prevent impacts to specific biological resources are given below.</p> <p>BR-8 For all the sensitive species listed in Table 5.7.1, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted to verify their presence at known sites and at potential sites where the project could impact these species. If present, impacts are to be avoided or minimized by narrowing the alignment adjacent to potential dens, nests or aquatic areas. If avoidance is not feasible, specific mitigation measures for these species will be determined through consultation with USFWS and CDFG through CESA and FESA. Formal consultation and obtaining of Incidental Take Permits would be required if the federally listed species could be encountered and affected.</p> <p>BR-9 To protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox the following measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Within 30 days prior to initiation of grading or other construction, the
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	<p>Applicant shall hire a qualified biologist acceptable to the USFWS, CDFG, and the County Environmental Coordinator, to conduct a pre-construction survey for known and potential kit fox dens. A letter shall be submitted to the Dept. of Planning and Building prior to issuance of construction permits confirming the completion of this survey.</p> <p>b) Before any grading or construction activities commence, all personnel associated with the project shall attend a worker education program regarding the sensitive biological resources potentially occurring in the project area (i.e., San Joaquin kit fox). Specifics of this program shall include kit fox life histories and careful review of the mitigation measures implemented to reduce impacts. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employers, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. The Dept. of Planning and Building shall be notified of the time that the applicant intends to hold this meeting.</p> <p>c) To prevent entrapment of the kit fox during the construction phase of the project, all excavation, steep-walled holes, or trenches in excess of 2 feet in depth shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or filled. Trenches shall also be inspected for entrapped kit fox each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for entrapped kit fox. Any kit fox so discovered shall be allowed to escape before field activities resume, or removed from the trench or hole by a qualified biologist and allowed to escape unimpeded.</p> <p>d) During the construction phase, any pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at the project site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox before the subject pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If during the construction phase a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe will not be moved, or if necessary will be moved only once to remove it from the path of activity, until the kit fox has escaped.</p> <p>e) In order not to attract kit fox predators such as red fox, coyotes, or domestic dogs to the area, and in order to not attract kit foxes to the site where they can be exposed to increased risk of injury or mortality, all food-related trash items such as food scraps, wrappers, cans, bottles, etc., generated during the construction phase shall be disposed of in closed containers only and regularly removed from the site. No deliberate feeding of wildlife shall be allowed.</p> <p>f) Any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a kit fox or who finds any such animal either dead, injured, or entrapped shall be required to report the incident immediately to a supervisor overseeing the project. In the event that such observations are made of an injured or dead kit fox, the Applicant shall immediately notify USFWS and CDFG by telephone, contact information for these agencies shall be included with the project contact list prior to the project commencement. In addition, formal notification shall be provided in writing within three working days of the finding of any such animal(s). Notification shall include the date, time, location, and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead</p>
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	<p>or injured shall be turned over immediately to the CDFG for care, analysis, or disposition.</p> <p>If any potential or known San Joaquin kit fox dens are subsequently observed during the required pre-activity survey, the following mitigation measures shall apply:</p> <p>g) Fenced sensitive resource zones shall be established by the project biologist around all known or potential kit fox dens that can be avoided but may be inadvertently impacted by project activities. Sensitive resource zone fencing shall consist of either large flagged stakes connected by rope or cord or survey laths or wooden stakes prominently flagged with survey ribbon. Each sensitive resource zone shall be roughly circular in configuration with a radius of the following distance measured outward from the den or burrow entrances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential kit fox den: 50 feet• Known kit fox den: 100 feet• Kit fox pupping den: 150 feet <p>h) If the sensitive resource zone intersects a road, only essential vehicle operation shall be allowed on the road within the sensitive resource zone, and simple foot traffic shall be permitted within these sensitive resource zones. Otherwise, all project activities such as vehicle operation, materials storage, etc., shall be prohibited. Sensitive resource zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated and then shall be removed. If specified sensitive resource zones cannot be observed for any reason, USFWS and CDFG shall be contacted for guidance prior to ground disturbing activities on or near the subject den or burrow.</p> <p>If any known San Joaquin kit fox dens are discovered within the project area which shall be unavoidably destroyed by the proposed project, excavation of these kit fox dens shall not proceed without authorization from USFWS and CDFG.</p> <p>Prior to project construction the Applicant shall consult with USFWS and CDFG to evaluate the appropriate participation in a kit fox conservation program. The Applicant will prepare a Habitat Evaluation Form using a qualified biologist to determine the appropriate level of offsite habitat mitigation necessary to offset any permanent loss of kit fox habitat, especially associated with the Camp Roberts storage tanks and pump station. Permanent habitat loss will be offset at the appropriate ratio through either land acquisition, a conservation easement or in-lieu fees.</p> <p>BR-10 Construction techniques to be implemented to protect oak trees and oak woodlands (i.e., blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, coast live oak woodland, and digger pine-oak woodland):</p> <p>In accordance with the County's guidance on oaks and Assembly Bill No. 242 to add Article 3.5 to Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the CDFG Code relating to oak woodland conservation, and with all local related policies and ordinances (e.g., City of Paso de Robles Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance, Camp Roberts Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan) the final project design shall target maximum avoidance of oak trees. If avoidance is not feasible the Applicant shall prepare an Oak Tree and Woodland Mitigation Plan, which shall be prepared by a certified arborist and shall</p>
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	<p>contain but not be limited to the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The construction ROW easement shall be narrowed to a maximum of 30 feet in width through oak woodland habitat (i.e., areas suitable for the establishment of oak woodlands). During final design, the project biologist and project engineer shall identify the most appropriate location for the narrowed corridor, taking into account the preservation of as many individual oak trees as possible with the engineering requirements of the proposed project. All areas requiring this sensitive resource zone shall be clearly shown on all construction plans, and prior to the onset of construction, flagged by the project biologist/construction monitor. If determined necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator, a preconstruction survey shall be conducted by the project biologist to accurately map oak woodlands that would be unavoidably impacted.b) Construction machinery ingress, egress, and staging areas shall be placed away from woodlands and individual oak trees, and shall not be driven under the canopies of oak trees.c) Disposal or storage of fill or excavated soil is prohibited within the dripline of all oak trees.d) During construction near oak trees, no fasteners may be used on the trees.e) All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid moving dead and downed oak logs.f) All oak trees immediately adjacent to construction areas shall be protected by erecting temporary fencing at the drip line of the woodland canopy or around individual trees.g) Any necessary oak tree pruning shall conform to the standards of the International Society of Arboriculture and done under supervision of a certified arborist. Pruning shall be carried out in such a manner as to maintain a natural-looking tree form upon completion of pruning; practices such as stub cuts, topping, flush cuts, and random branch removal shall be avoided. All pruning cuts shall correspond with the branch collar using natural target pruning, and no tree seal shall be used. Pruning or cutting of roots etc. of individual trees shall be quantified during construction and up to one year after construction.h) Oak monitoring shall be done for one year after construction completion. If any oak trees die either during construction or within one year after construction completion, the trees shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio.i) Individual oak trees that cannot be avoided and must be removed within habitat types other than oak woodlands shall be replaced at a 4:1 replacement ratio in accordance with the County's mitigation policy for loss of individual oak trees.j) For every area of oak woodland habitat that is removed, oak woodland habitat shall be restored onsite or replaced offsite at an agreed upon offsite location with an equal area (3:1 replacement ratio).k) Offsite replacement for oak woodlands shall be at locations that currently support disturbed or nonnative habitats. Each of the four oak woodland habitat types that would be disturbed shall be replaced or restored with a similar density of oak trees by
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	<p>species as found in the impacted habitats. The Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FCWCD) shall prepare a detailed oak woodland restoration plan for this project. The VRRP shall contain detailed information on oak woodland replacement and address any issues of concern. Areas suitable for creation of oak conservation areas for replacement offsite shall be evaluated. Feasibility of purchasing land for oak conservation areas shall be evaluated.</p> <p>l) Specifically on Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo, compliance with the Camp Roberts Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is required as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- hand digging, mechanical digging, and blade work are prohibited under the drip lines of standing live or dead oak trees; if digging under the drip lines of oaks is unavoidable, any damage that ensues will be subject to mitigation (replacement);-- 3:1 replacement for damaged or removed oaks;-- collection of acorns from the area of impacted oaks, planting at densities approved by CA ARNG, planting during January-February, watering if necessary;-- minimum of five (5) years of monitoring, 3:1 survivorship ratio, preparation of annual monitoring reports, and compliance with all other INRMP oak management stipulations. <p>m) These oak tree avoidance and monitoring procedures shall also be followed for construction in all areas in the vicinity of oak trees along the construction route.</p> <p>BR-11 The VRRP shall include details on needlegrass grassland habitats. The restoration of needlegrass grasslands shall include salvaging of topsoil, recontouring the impact area to its original contours, and revegetating this area with purple needlegrass, nodding needlegrass, and foothill needlegrass plugs at the appropriate time of year (November-January). This will require onsite seed collection and contract-growing of plugs by a nursery with demonstrated experience in propagating native plants.</p> <p>The needlegrass grassland areas in the project corridor also include several highly sensitive sites with serpentine rock outcrops (i.e., serpentine bunchgrass community). Seed and bulbs from native forb and corm species indigenous to the serpentine grassland sites also shall be collected and reseeded or planted into the restoration areas. Forb species found in the impact areas appropriate for reseeding including California poppy, morning glory, fasciated tarweed, dot-seed plantain, Canterbury bells, and yerba santa. Corm-forming species found in the impact areas (e.g., wild onion, golden bloomeria, soap plant) shall be salvaged en masse with the topsoil and replanted in the impact areas after construction. These measures will ensure that the genetic integrity of the needlegrass, native forb, and corm-forming species that are locally adapted to serpentine soils are preserved. Several special status plant species to be impacted in serpentine bunchgrass habitat shall be salvaged and replanted as described below under special status plants.</p> <p>The selected mitigation area shall be monitored by a qualified biologist for needlegrass plug survival at 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months following planting; all plug losses below 80% shall be replaced at the appropriate time of year. The percent</p>
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	<p>cover of native forbs, corm-forming plants, and needlegrass shall be monitored using transects or quadrants and compared with adjacent undisturbed native grassland habitat.</p> <p>BR-12 As part of the VRRP, chaparral, central coastal scrub, and nonnative grassland shall be revegetated and restored using topsoil salvage, recontouring disturbed areas to their original contours, and hydroseeding impacted areas with species characteristic of the impacted vegetative community. Appropriate species for erosion control purposes and eventual native shrub and herb cover shall be used. Because native grassland species are likely to be out-competed by nonnative species, and native bunchgrasses require hand-planting, it is recommended that grassland impact areas be hydroseeded with a ground cover mix. Hydroseeded areas shall be monitored by a qualified biologist for seed viability and overall success. Areas shall be re-hydroseeded after 30 days if germination success is low. Topsoil salvage specifications, hydroseed mixes, and seed proportions for individual sites shall be specified in the detailed mitigation plan for this project.</p> <p>BR-13 To protect San Luis Mariposa lily, Brewer’s spineflower, Cambria morning glory, Chorro Creek bog thistle, Obispo Indian Paintbrush, Jones Layia, Dwarf Soaproot, Most Beautiful Jewel-flower and Blochman’s dudleya, the following shall be implemented in the Chorro Creek area. The location of all plant populations in or adjacent to the alignment shall be clearly shown on construction maps and labeled as sensitive areas that shall be avoided. These populations shall be flagged by a qualified biologist and protected with temporary fencing prior to construction. During the final project design phase, slight shifts and narrowing of the proposed construction ROW will be required to avoid all the sensitive plant habitats listed in FEIR Table 5.7.1 (FEIR page 5.7-7).</p> <p>FCWCD shall prepare a detailed mitigation plan for salvage and restoration of these special status plant populations, if complete avoidance is not possible. Those individual plants to be impacted shall be salvaged and transplanted into appropriate habitat within or adjacent to the alignment after project construction is completed. Seed saving and nursery propagation before reintroduction may be necessary for restoration of Brewer’s spineflower and possibly Blochman’s dudleya populations. Any salvaging effort shall be conducted when the plants are dormant (i.e., late July through September), and transplantation or reintroduction shall occur in fall or early winter (September through January). A transplantation plan shall be prepared by the project biologist and submitted for approval to the Lead Agency prior to the onset of construction activities. This plan shall include guidelines for salvage of corms and seed, and salvage and replacement of topsoil and serpentine boulders. The plan shall also address guidelines for storage of plant material in the event that there is a delay between the salvage and transplantation efforts. Plant material storage guidelines shall include, at a minimum, the method(s) of storage and the storage facility (name and address of the institution, etc.). The plan shall also include specific information documenting the suitability of the receiver site (i.e., soils, existing vegetation, etc.), transplantation techniques, and a monitoring program. Transplanted corms and plants shall be marked and subsequently monitored during the blooming period for a minimum of three years. A status report documenting all aspects of the plan shall be submitted to the Lead Agency within one month of the final transplantation effort.</p>
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	<p>Thereafter, yearly monitoring reports shall be submitted in September to the Lead Agency.</p> <p>BR-14 To protect San Luis Obispo Sedge and Cuesta Pass Checkerbloom, construction ROW shall be narrowed as feasible where these plants occur (see Table 5.7.1). The location of all plants in or adjacent to the alignment shall be clearly shown on construction maps and labeled as sensitive areas that shall be avoided. The limits of the population in or adjacent to the alignment shall be flagged by a qualified biologist prior to construction. A mitigation plan would be required for propagation and reintroduction of the species into appropriate habitat.</p> <p>BR-15 To protect Shinning Navarretia, Straight-Awned Spineflower, Dwarf Calycadenia, Prostrate Navarretia, San Benito spineflower, and Lemmon’s Jewelflower, direct impacts shall be avoided by narrowing the construction ROW in those segments of the proposed alignment where they occur. The location of all plants in or adjacent to the alignment shall be clearly shown on construction maps and labeled as sensitive areas that shall be avoided. The limits of the population in or adjacent to the alignment shall be flagged by a qualified biologist prior to construction. If avoidance is not possible, impacts to these sensitive plant species would be adverse because of the relatively high sensitivity of the species (CNPS List 1B). A mitigation plan would be required for propagation and reintroduction of the species into appropriate habitat.</p> <p>BR-16 Potential impacts to special status bird species (in particular the Bald eagle, California condor, Yellow Warbler, Least Bell’s Vireo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher) may be mitigated by implementing the general mitigation measures - BR-1 through BR-6. Impacts to avian species shall be avoided by not allowing construction during the breeding season in habitats special status birds are known to be breeding. Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted to assess the presence or absence of special status bird species in their breeding habitats, and areas that are in use will be flagged and avoided until the end of the breeding season.</p> <p>To protect Bald eagle during November through March avoid construction at locations in Camp Roberts where bald eagles have been spotted. Prior to beginning any construction activities, a survey for nesting bald eagles shall be performed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is discovered, construction activity shall not occur within 800 meters (2,400 feet) of the nest from 1 January to 31 August, or as stipulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>To protect California condor, work shall be halted by the environmental monitor if the bird(s) is observed in the vicinity. Work can be resumed only after the project biologist has determined that the bird has moved far enough away that resuming work will not result in disturbance of the bird.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to biological resources to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: It is required that the applicant obtains an Incidental Take Permit if there is a possibility that a “take” of federally listed species could occur (see Section 5.7.2 for definitions). Federal Endangered Species Act, Section 7 requires Federal agencies to have a formal consultation with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund, authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the</p>	

<p>continued existence of any federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. If the project is conducted within a federal property (e.g., Camp Roberts), a formal consultation as per the Endangered Species Act may be required (e.g., for the endangered species on Camp Roberts lands such as vernal pool fairy shrimp and San Joaquin kit fox, and others).</p>	
Impact BR.2	<p>Impacts to riparian, water, and wetlands habitats and their biological resources from construction activities (FEIR page 5.7-31).</p>
Mitigation	<p>BR-17 Construction activities within and/or immediately adjacent to all creek crossings, wetlands, special status plant species populations, or suitable habitats of special status wildlife of the pipeline shall be limited to a 15- to 30-foot corridor. Specific sites for this limitation would include pipeline crossings at Salinas and Nacimiento Rivers and San Marcos, Santa Margarita, Tassajara, Trout, Yerba Buena, and Chorro Creeks. Other creek crossings may be included as determined by the project biologist.</p> <p>BR-18 The following construction techniques shall be utilized when constructing through drainages or within riparian areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment access and construction shall be conducted from the banks rather than from within the drainage to the extent feasible. Prohibited activities within drainages or other wetland areas include staging areas and disposal or temporary placement of excess fill. - Trenching shall be scheduled during periods of minimum flow (i.e., summer through the first significant rain of fall, usually July through October) to avoid erosion and downstream sediment deposition and to avoid impacts to drainage-dependent species such as California red-legged frog or southwestern pond turtle. Construction through riparian or other wetland areas shall also be scheduled to avoid the breeding season (March-September) and potential impacts to sensitive, riparian-obligate bird species such as yellow warbler, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo. - To the degree practicable, avoid any activity that places fill in or otherwise affects wetlands and streams. <p>BR-19 The following shall be observed during the final design of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Should it be infeasible to avoid any of the sensitive species listed in Table 5.7.2 (FEIR page 5.7-21) during creek crossings, the Applicant shall utilize directional drilling or other non-invasive technique to avoid disturbance of sensitive species and/or habitat . - In planning construction adjacent to streambeds, place pipeline route away from streambed edges. - If suspended pipe crossings are used, design footings with as small a footprint in streambeds and riparian vegetation as possible. - Minimize disturbance to riparian woodlands. <p>To prevent erosion-related impacts to biological resources during construction, construction activities would be accomplished according to an Erosion Control Plan.</p>

	<p>Erosion and sedimentation impacts shall be mitigated by employing standard erosion control procedures such as use of silt fencing, sandbagging, diversion ditches, and stream bank stabilization procedures. These measures are summarized as DE-1 and DE-2, and DE-8 through DE-11 in Section 5.3, Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation, and shall be implemented accordingly.</p> <p>In addition, the following mitigation measure to prevent impacts due to dewatering shall be implemented:</p> <p>BR-20 If preconstruction surveys indicate that habitat conditions on any drainage within the project area are suitable for a specific sensitive species, then dewatering of that drainage shall be avoided during potential reproduction or movement periods.</p> <p>Dewatering activities at known sensitive amphibian and reptile habitat, such as Chorro Creek, shall be avoided. If avoidance at potential habitat areas is not possible, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted, as outlined above, and all individual sensitive animals relocated to refugia elsewhere along the same drainage.</p> <p>In order to prevent impacts from fuels or other hazardous materials getting into riparian or aquatic habitats, “no fueling” zones shall be designated wherein fueling of vehicles or equipment is prohibited within 25 feet of all drainages, therefore measure WQ-1 shall be implemented (see Section 5.1, Hydrology and Water Quality).</p> <p>In addition, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:</p> <p>BR-21 All equipment used in or near drainages shall be clean and free of leaks and/or grease. Emergency provisions shall be in place at all drainage crossings prior to the onset of construction to deal with accidental spills.</p> <p>To protect wetlands, existing canopy and shrub cover and the existing outlook of the streams the following mitigation measures shall be implemented.</p> <p>BR-22 The VRRP shall also address wetland replacement. The replacement or restoration plan shall detail all impacts to wetland habitats as a result of the project and will specify in-kind replacement of habitat quality. For riparian woodland and scrub communities, habitat replacement shall be required at 3:1 and 2:1 ratios, respectively, or greater. Mitigation for disturbed wetlands shall be at a 3:1 ratio. Mitigation for all riparian vegetation within Camp Roberts and Camp Luis Obispo shall be at a 3:1 ratio.</p> <p>As much as feasibly possible, salvaging and replanting of vegetation shall be done. The original contours of stream beds and ponds shall carefully be restored to their original configuration, including the salvaging and replacement of boulders and cobbles. Container planted shrubs and trees and species to be seeded in the riparian mitigation areas shall be based on the species composition of the impacted wetlands and specified in the riparian mitigation plan. The precise proportions and special arrangement of the plantings also shall be specified in the VRRP. In many cases, it may be necessary to hydroseed native herbaceous species on banks and planting plugs of wetland species in the channel. Mitigation for impacts to disturbed wetlands and unvegetated waters can likely take place within the alignment. Likewise, onsite mitigation for woodland and scrub communities may occur within the alignment, although additional offsite mitigation (i.e., outside the alignment) will likely be</p>
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	<p>required to accommodate required mitigation ratios.</p> <p>Mitigation measures relating to specific sensitive species are outlined below.</p> <p>BR-23 At all wetlands, vernal pools, bulldozer scrapes, low-lying areas that may pond water and roadside ditches where vernal pool fairy shrimp could be directly impacted, assume presence of the species if preconstruction surveys for 2 years during wet season can not be conducted to determine presence or absence. If present (or presence is assumed), the alignment shall be shifted to avoid the species, if possible. If impacts to the species are unavoidable the Applicant shall obtain authorization for Incidental Take Permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service prior to construction (refer to Measure BR-8).</p> <p>Relocate staging area that is proposed to be near Nacimiento River (near Sta. 145+00) to be located away from documented vernal pool in the vicinity, and at least 100 feet from the river.</p> <p>BR-24 All drainages affected by the project and with known occurrences of steelhead trout, arroyo chub, and tidewater goby, or with the potential to support these species shall be surveyed for presence of these species at the crossing and 500 feet up and down the stream prior to commencement of construction. Preconstruction surveys shall include the Salinas River and major tributaries the proposed pipeline would cross San Marcos, Santa Margarita, Chorro, San Luis Obispo, Trout, and Yerba Buena Creeks. The presence or absence of special status fish species shall be determined and the potential for habitat to support these species shall be reassessed. If a special status fish species is detected, the fish shall be captured and relocated downstream. Relocation of listed species requires a formal consultation for obtaining an ITP (see FEIR section 5.7.2), therefore time shall be allowed in the project schedule for the consultation and obtaining of the ITP.</p> <p>If relocation is not feasible, construction will avoid the spawning season for those species. If the tidewater goby, arroyo chub, or steelhead trout are found at Chorro Creek, the creek crossing shall be done via directional boring under the creek, relocate pipeline away from the Creek bed as far as feasible, if not feasible and impacts are expected, the Applicant shall consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and CDFG to obtain an ITP and/or obtain a Streambed Alternation Agreement.</p> <p>BR-25 At all drainages affected by the project and with known occurrences of California red-legged frogs, western spadefoot toad, southwestern pond turtles, California tiger salamander, and arroyo southwestern toads or with the potential to support these species shall be surveyed for presence of these species at the crossing and 500 feet up and down the stream prior to commencement of construction. If present, the alignment shall be shifted to avoid the species, if possible. If this is not feasible, the frogs or turtles shall be captured and relocated to refugia outside the impact area. Appropriate refugia shall be located on the same drainage and shall support high-quality species habitat. In addition, the impact area shall be recontoured subsequent to construction to approximate high-quality habitat. Relocation of the California red-legged frog and arroyo southwestern toad would require approval from USFWS and CDFG. If these agencies do not allow for such a relocation program, Chorro creek crossing shall be done via directional boring under the creek.</p>
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Findings	Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Implementation avoids potential impacts to sensitive species. Similar mitigation measures for projects in the past have resulted in avoidance of impacts to biological resources.	
Impact BR.3	Impacts to wildlife from noise due to the project construction and operation phases (FEIR page 5.7-36).
Mitigation	<p>BR-26 Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in riparian areas for presence of sensitive bird species no earlier than March 15 and at least three visits shall occur between this date and June 15. If no sensitive breeding birds are detected by June 15, it can be assumed that they will not nest in that location for that year and construction can proceed.</p> <p>If sensitive breeding birds are detected, construction activities shall be limited to those which will not produce significant noise impacts during the breeding season of the particular bird species (e.g., March 15 to September 15). Exact breeding time interval shall be determined by the qualified biologist.</p> <p>Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in San Joaquin kit fox habitats for presence of kit fox dens. No construction shall be conducted near the kit fox dens during pupping season (December – April).</p>
Findings	Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: To prevent noise impacts, mitigation measures N-1 through N-7 would be implemented (see FEIR Section 5.5, Noise). Avoidance of construction during breeding seasons and in the vicinity of nests/dens typically reduces impacts to the biological resources.	
Impact BR.4	Impacts to wildlife in drainages due to erosion, sedimentation and dewatering (FEIR page 5.7-36).
Mitigation	Implementation of the mitigation measures BR-17 through BR-20 that mitigates direct impacts to the wetland, riparian, and aquatic life, would mitigate this impacts as well. No other mitigation measures are necessary.
Findings	Implementation of the listed mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Aquatic species would be affected (potential injury or mortality) if remained in the stream bed during dewatering.	
Impact BR.5	Impacts to plants from dust emission due to the project construction phase. (FEIR page 5.7-37)
Mitigation	Dust reduction measures described in Section 5.4, Air Quality, subsection 5.4.4, (Mitigation Measure AQ-1) shall be implemented. After implementation of these

	measures, impacts to biological resources would become insignificant.
Findings	Implementation of the dust reduction measures would reduce the potential impacts to plants to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Little information exists on the effects of dust on plants. However, continual cover of dust could potentially reduce the overall vigor of individual trees and shrubs by reducing their photosynthetic capabilities and increasing their susceptibility to pests or disease. These effects would likely require long-term exposure to dust. Nonetheless, any potential indirect impacts to plants as a result of fugitive dust emissions created by construction activities shall be mitigated by employing standard air quality control procedures such as regularly watering areas of bare ground.	
Impact BR.9	Impacts to riparian habitat due to construction of the water discharge areas in the vicinity of Salinas River. (FEIR page 5.7-39)
Mitigation	Avoidance or sensitive species relocation program would be accomplished by implementation of measures BR-23 and BR-25. The VRRP shall also be implemented for the discharge areas construction (measure BR-22).
Findings	Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to Salinas River riparian habitat to <i>not significant with mitigation</i> (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Avoidance of the sensitive species would reduce severity of the impact.	

Cultural Resources	
Impact CR.1	Soil moving construction activities (e.g., trenching, excavating) could impact significant and important paleontology resources. (FEIR page 5.8-66)
Mitigation	<p>CR-1 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the applicant shall submit a paleontological resources monitoring plan to the appropriate jurisdiction for review and approval. Monitoring shall be required for all surface alteration and subsurface excavation work including trenching, boring, grading, use of staging areas and access roads, and driving vehicles and equipment within the boundaries of all exposed sensitive geological formations. A qualified professional paleontologist that is approved by the Lead Agency in consultation with all affected jurisdictions shall prepare the plan. The plan shall address (but not be limited to) the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training program/workshops for all construction and field workers; 2. Person(s) responsible for conducting monitoring activities; 3. How the monitoring shall be conducted and required format and content of monitoring reports; 4. Person(s) responsible for overseeing and directing the monitors; 5. Schedule for submittal of monitoring reports and person(s) responsible for review and approval of monitoring reports; 6. Clear delineation and fencing off if necessary of sensitive geological formations/paleontology resources requiring monitoring within each pipeline reach

	<p>(onsite, only the construction foreman, environmental monitor, and project engineer shall have access to this information);</p> <p>7. Physical monitoring boundaries (e.g. 100 feet each side of formation);</p> <p>8. Protocol for notifications in case of encountering of cultural resources, as well as methods of dealing with the encountered resources (e.g., collection, identification, curation);</p> <p>9. Methods to ensure site security;</p> <p>10. Protocol for notifying local authorities (i.e. Sheriff, Police) should site looting and other illegal activities occur during construction.</p> <p>CR-2 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the applicant shall retain a qualified professional paleontologist to monitor construction activities pursuant to the approved paleontological resources monitoring plan. The monitoring shall include inspection of exposed rock units and microscopic examination of matrix to determine if fossils are present, preparation of monthly progress reports and filed with the applicant, the Lead Agency, and the appropriate jurisdiction pursuant to the approved paleontological resources monitoring plan. The monitor (professional paleontologist or their representative) shall have authority to temporarily divert grading and construction equipment away from exposed fossils to recover the fossil specimens if fossils or other resources are encountered.</p> <p>CR-3 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the applicant shall present an agreement to pay associated curation fees to the chosen accredited repositories.</p> <p>In the event that fossils are discovered, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce the significance of the impacts to paleontology resources:</p> <p>CR-4 In the event fossils are discovered by the retained monitor during construction, the professional paleontologist (or their representative) shall ensure the implementation of the following measures as necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fossils shall be collected, prepared, tested or identified by qualified experts, and listed in a database to allow analysis; - At each fossil locality, field data forms shall record the locality, stratigraphic columns shall be measured when possible, and appropriate scientific samples submitted for analysis; and - The qualified professional paleontologist shall recommend one or more accredited repositories for collected fossils depending on the abundance and origin of those fossils. <p>CR-5 Prior to final inspection of the completed project, the applicant shall submit a final mitigation report prepared by the retained professional paleontologist to the Lead Agency, the appropriate jurisdiction, and the chosen accredited repository pursuant to the approved paleontological resources monitoring plan.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the measures recommended above will ensure that any significant fossils encountered in the identified sections of the excavations will be properly

	considered for their scientific value. Therefore, this impact is not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Two technical reports on cultural and paleontological resources of the project site have been prepared by Gibson’s Archaeological Consulting (Inventory of Prehistoric, Historic, Paleontology, Geomorphology and Geological Resources for the Nacimiento Water Supply Pipeline Project, San Luis Obispo County, CA, November 1996 and January 30, 2003). These reports are herein incorporated by reference and because of the confidential nature of the information, may be reviewed by qualified persons on a “need-to-know” basis at the Environmental Division of the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, California.</p> <p>These reports identify all cultural, paleontological and archaeological existing and potential resources that are in proximity to the proposed project sites. Most of the resources are sufficiently far from the project sites that significant impacts are not expected. For the resources that have potential to be impacted by the project, the proposed mitigation measures would be sufficient to mitigate to the level of insignificance.</p>	
Impact CR.2	Soil moving construction activities (e.g., trenching, excavating) could impact significant and important geomorphology resources. (FEIR page 5.8-70)
Mitigation	Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2 and CR-3 shall be implemented for the segments of the project area listed in the above Tables. In the event that sensitive resources are encountered, Mitigation Measures CR-4 and CR-5 shall be implemented. None additional.
Findings	After implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, residual impacts to geomorphology resources would be not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Two technical reports on cultural and paleontological resources of the project site have been prepared by Gibson’s Archaeological Consulting (Inventory of Prehistoric, Historic, Paleontology, Geomorphology and Geological Resources for the Nacimiento Water Supply Pipeline Project, San Luis Obispo County, CA, November 1996 and January 30, 2003). These reports are herein incorporated by reference and because of the confidential nature of the information, may be reviewed by qualified persons on a “need-to-know” basis at the Environmental Division of the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, California.</p> <p>These reports identify all cultural, paleontological and archaeological existing and potential resources that are in proximity to the proposed project sites. Most of the resources are sufficiently far from the project sites that significant impacts are not expected. For the resources that have potential to be impacted by the project, the proposed mitigation measures would be sufficient to mitigate to the level of insignificance.</p>	
Impact CR.3	Soil moving construction activities (e.g., trenching, excavating) could impact significant and important prehistoric cultural resources (FEIR page 5.8-71).
Mitigation	CR-6 Prior to authorization to proceed, or issuance of permits, the applicant shall prepare and submit a cultural resources monitoring plan to the appropriate jurisdiction for review and approval. Monitoring shall be required for all surface alteration and subsurface excavation work including trenching, boring, grading, use of staging areas and access roads, and driving vehicles and equipment within the boundaries of all exposed sensitive cultural resources. A qualified professional archaeologist (cultural resources monitor) that is approved by the Lead Agency in consultation with all

	<p>affected jurisdictions shall prepare the plan. The plan shall address (but not be limited to) the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Training program for all construction involved in site disturbance and field workers;2. Person(s) responsible for conducting monitoring activities;3. How the monitoring shall be conducted and required format and content of monitoring reports, including any necessary archaeological re-survey of the final pipeline alignment, assessment, designation and mapping of the sensitive cultural resource areas on final project maps, assessment and survey of any previously un-surveyed areas;4. Person(s) responsible for overseeing and directing the monitors;5. Schedule for submittal of monitoring reports and person(s) responsible for review and approval of monitoring reports;6. Procedures and construction methods to avoid sensitive cultural resource areas (i.e. boring conduit underneath recorded or discovered cultural resource site);7. Clear delineation and fencing off if necessary of sensitive cultural resource areas requiring monitoring within each sub-segment;8. Physical monitoring boundaries (e.g., 100 feet each side of a site);9. Protocol for notifications in case of encountering of cultural resources, as well as methods of dealing with the encountered resources (e.g., collection, identification, curation);10. Methods to ensure security of cultural resources sites;11. Protocol for notifying local authorities (i.e. Sheriff, Police) should site looting and other illegal activities occur during construction. <p>CR-7 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the applicant shall submit plans to the appropriate jurisdiction for review and approval showing the boundaries of all known archaeological and historical sites and a buffer line drawn 100 feet from the boundaries of the known sites along the project route. For any pipeline segments where soil disturbance is expected and that have not been surveyed for presence of cultural resources, the Applicant shall ensure that such surveys are conducted prior to finalizing of the project plans, and results are included into the project plans and maps prior to submission for authorization. Limited activity may occur within the 100-foot buffer area (outside of the boundaries of known sites) as permitted by the appropriate jurisdiction in consultation with the cultural resources monitor. Due to high confidential nature of these documents, on site, only the construction foreman, environmental monitor, and project engineer shall have access to these plans.</p> <p>CR-8 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the construction foreman, project manager(s), and all construction workers associated with the proposed project that would be involved in site disturbance shall participate in a cultural resources training/workshop to be conducted by the approved cultural</p>
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	<p>resources monitor. The training shall highlight on the significance of cultural resources and the legal consequences of looting, disturbing, destroying these resources or violating approved mitigation measures. A declaration confirming the training's occurrence shall be prepared by the monitor and signed by all persons in attendance. This signed declaration shall be submitted to the appropriate jurisdiction.</p> <p>CR-9 During any soil disturbance activities (e.g., trenching, boring, excavation) in the locations with the known or potential cultural resources, cultural resource monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor familiar with the resource types potentially present in these locations. The qualified professional archaeologist (or their representative) and Native American shall conduct monitoring activities based on the cultural resources monitoring plan.</p> <p>CR-10 The following activities shall be excluded from known designated and discovered cultural resource sites: 1) excavation; 2) staging equipment, machinery, or vehicles on undisturbed or exposed portions of the cultural resource; 3) collection, removal or unnecessary displacement of any artifacts, "eco-facts" or other cultural remains; 4) stockpiling of imported soils within the designated sensitive area; 5) removal of native soils outside a sensitive area. Every effort shall be made to contain and collect any chemical/fuel spills immediately.</p> <p>In the event of encountering of cultural resources, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented.</p> <p>CR-11 In the event unknown archaeological resources are discovered, the following standards shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Construction activities shall cease, and the project archaeologist shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law. The project archeological monitor (professional archaeologist or their representative) shall be responsible to notify the local jurisdiction.2. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County or City Coroner shall be notified in addition to the appropriate jurisdictions so proper disposition may be accomplished. <p>Several locations with identified cultural resources have been recommended for archaeological testing prior to proceeding with construction (also see Table 5.8.9). Each type of testing would be determined for a specific resource by a qualified archaeologist.</p> <p>CR-12 Phase II Subsurface Testing. Shall be implemented for the areas where there is a potential for intact cultural deposits to occur in the pipeline ROW. Two methods of testing may be used depending on the density of surface artifacts, surface conditions, and type of cultural site. Which specific testing would be used for which cultural resource would be determined by a qualified professional archaeologist depending on the available information at the time of the project.</p> <p>Backhoe Testing. This is a preliminary testing method designed to determine</p>
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presence or absence of cultural materials particularly in a buried context. Backhoe testing is only done until the presence of cultural materials and their integrity is confirmed. For the proposed project, this testing is recommended for the Santa Ysabel Ranch area between pipeline Sta. 1185+00 and 1200+00. No definite prehistoric sites were identified on the surface in this 50-foot wide ROW area but exist on both sides of the proposed ROW. Backhoe trenches should be excavated at approximately 100-foot intervals along the proposed ROW to a depth slightly greater than the maximum depth expected for the bottom of the trench for the pipeline. If any intact cultural deposits are encountered, then a controlled excavation method should be utilized to define the nature and extent of the cultural materials.

Controlled Excavation. In cases where surface artifacts are present within or adjacent to the pipeline ROW and could be adversely impacted by actual construction excavation or staging areas, a series of controlled test units should be excavated. The tests shall be planned and executed under a supervision of a qualified professional archaeologist. Typical size should be 1 x 1 meter, excavated in 10 or 20 cm levels, screened with 1/8" mesh or smaller screen and excavated to sterile soil. In some cases these can be placed adjacent to pavement where the pipeline is scheduled to go beneath pavement. This will expose a profile of the cultural strata and allow a determination to be made about the possibility of intact cultural materials beneath the pavement that would be impacted by the pipeline construction. Test units should be placed at approximately 50-foot increments depending on the density of cultural materials encountered.

Sample Analysis. Standard analyses including C-14 dating, could be recommended by a qualified archaeologist to provide information on the boundaries, content, integrity and significance of cultural resources in the pipeline ROW. This controlled sample would be used to minimize adverse impacts by providing information to help define minor re-alignments of the pipe ROW to completely avoid impacts or greatly minimize them by locating the pipeline in the lowest density areas of the cultural deposits.

Phase III Data Recovery Program. Finally, after all avoidance and minimizing of adverse impacts is done, this subsurface testing can be used to develop a Phase III data recovery program for all unavoidable adverse impacts to significant cultural resources.

Resource-specific mitigation measures are outlined below. These measures shall be implemented for a specific prehistoric cultural resource and are mostly related to those resources where significant adverse impacts can be avoided by relocating the proposed pipeline and facilities to a different place, typically not more than 100 feet from the proposed location.

CR-13 Prehistoric Cultural Resource (PCR) #2. Prior to construction in this area, a small scale subsurface testing program should be conducted along the edge of the road to determine if any significant cultural materials are present and if they would be affected by the pipeline construction. If present, the testing could define the boundaries of the cultural materials and the pipeline could be moved north of the dirt road, perhaps no more than 30–50 feet to avoid adverse impacts to all cultural

	<p>materials from this site.</p> <p>CR-14 PCR #4. It is recommended that the pipeline be located along the south side of the dirt road in areas of deepest cut. SLO-1169 could be completely avoided by moving the pipeline ROW upslope of the dirt road to the west by approximately 60-feet. If avoidance is not possible, additional subsurface testing would be needed to supplement existing information and define the boundaries, content and significance of the cultural resources of this site. Based on the Phase II testing, appropriate recommendations can be made regarding treatment of any significant cultural resources that would be affected by the proposed pipeline.</p> <p>A large staging area, 200-feet by 600-feet that would cover most of PCR #4 site shall be moved from this location entirely. Another location along the actual pipeline ROW shall be selected. One possible location for this staging area could be near Sta. 130+00.</p> <p>CR-15 PCR #5. It is recommended that subsurface testing be conducted along the south edge of the Boy Scout Road to determine if any cultural materials exist in the pipeline ROW. If the cultural deposit is shallow, the approximately 1-foot deep grading of the road may have removed the cultural deposit. If materials extend deeper, then the pipeline could encounter additional materials beneath the road. If avoidance is not possible, additional subsurface testing would be needed to define the boundaries, content and significance of the cultural resources of this site. Based on the Phase II testing, appropriate recommendations can be made regarding treatment of any significant cultural resources that would be affected by the proposed pipeline.</p> <p>CR-16 PCR #7. Due to the fact that the site has been deemed eligible for NRHP status and it is costly and time consuming to meet both state and federal requirements, it is strongly recommended that the pipeline ROW be re-aligned and moved south of Boy Scout Road before entering the west end of SLO-1180. If the pipeline remains south of it and crosses Dry Creek to meet West Perimeter Road, adverse impacts to the west locus could probably be avoided. Subsurface testing would be needed to find the best route south of SLO-1180 that would avoid impacting significant cultural materials. If re-routing were not possible, then an extensive testing and mitigation program would be required for this location.</p> <p>CR-17 PCR #9. Subsurface testing is recommended where the access road meets San Marcos Road to determine if any cultural materials from this prehistoric site are present and would be impacted. If the entrance road begins 150-feet to 300-feet east of the existing General's Road gate, it may avoid this prehistoric site. If preliminary testing cannot avoid cultural materials then additional testing would be needed to determine the boundaries, context and significance of this site and to develop appropriate recommendations.</p> <p>CR-18 PCR #14. It is recommended that the proposed pipeline be moved east approximately 100–20 feet to the toe of the slope and east of the barbed wire fence. Subsurface testing is recommended to find an area east of the proposed pipeline ROW that would avoid impacting cultural materials from this newly recorded prehistoric site. If preliminary testing cannot avoid cultural materials then, additional testing would be needed to determine significance and appropriate actions.</p>
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	<p>CR-19 To avoid impacts to PCR #16 through #23 place the pipeline ROW adjacent to the pavement of El Camino Real and west of the rail road tracks starting just north of Sta. 2015+00 and follow that alignment through the town of Santa Margarita to Sta.2105+00.</p> <p>CR-20 PCR #24. To avoid this prehistoric site it is recommended to move the pipeline ROW to the north side of the pavement of El Camino Real.</p>
Findings	After implementation of the outlined mitigation measures, residual impacts to prehistoric cultural resources would be not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Two technical reports on cultural and paleontological resources of the project site have been prepared by Gibson’s Archaeological Consulting (Inventory of Prehistoric, Historic, Paleontology, Geomorphology and Geological Resources for the Nacimiento Water Supply Pipeline Project, San Luis Obispo County, CA, November 1996 and January 30, 2003). These reports are herein incorporated by reference and because of the confidential nature of the information, may be reviewed by qualified persons on a “need-to-know” basis at the Environmental Division of the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, California.</p> <p>These reports identify all cultural, paleontological and archaeological existing and potential resources that are in proximity to the proposed project sites. Most of the resources are sufficiently far from the project sites that significant impacts are not expected. For the resources that have potential to be impacted by the project, the proposed mitigation measures would be sufficient to mitigate to the level of insignificance.</p>	
Impact CR.6	Construction of the proposed project adjacent to or in the vicinity of archaeological or historical sites may result in the looting, vandalism or destruction of cultural resources by construction employees or persons visiting the construction site.
Mitigation	<p>CR-21 In the event of discovered looting or disturbance of resources, all responsible parties shall be reported to the appropriate jurisdiction and local authorities for legal action pursuant to the approved cultural resources monitoring plan.</p> <p>Implementation of measures CR-1, CR-6, and CR-8 is required.</p>
Findings	Residual impacts would be insignificant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Typically the proposed mitigation measures (e.g., education about possible punishment associated with looting, fencing, and keeping information about locations of cultural resource as confidential) reduces the significance of this impact.</p>	

Land Use	
Findings	The proposed project would be potentially consistent with Goals 15 (<i>Provide additional public resources, services and facilities to serve existing communities in sufficient time to avoid overburdening existing resources, services, and facilities</i>) and 16 (<i>Avoid the use of public resources, services and facilities beyond their renewable capacities, and monitor new development to ensure that its resource demands will not exceed existing and planned capacities or service levels</i>).
Supportive Evidence: The proposed NWP would be able to provide a water supply by approximately	

mid 2009. The project may be able to meet a schedule of water supply augmentation for LOS II but not LOS III.	
Findings	The proposed NWP is consistent with General Goal 17 (<i>Finance the cost of additional services and facilities from those who benefit by providing for dedications, in-lieu fees or exactions.</i>).
Supportive Evidence: Nacimiento Participants Advisory Committee (NPAC) was established by the County Board of Supervisors to oversee and fund the preparation of conceptual project design plans and environmental permitting for the NWP.	
Findings	Where the land is privately held and designated for agriculture or in cultivation, the proposed NWP facilities may be inconsistent with Goal 18 (<i>Locate new and additional public service facilities on existing public lands where feasible, allowing for sufficient buffers to protect adjacent rural and agricultural areas.</i>).
Supportive Evidence: The County’s use of supplemental water supplies from Lake Nacimiento has been anticipated since 1959. The County Master Water Plan recognizes that continued reliance on groundwater supplies may result in significant damage to local aquifers, and recommends that a variety of water projects be developed to diversify water sources, reduce reliance on groundwater, and meet long-term forecasted water demand.	
Findings	The proposed project is consistent with SLO County’s Master Water Plan.
Supportive Evidence: The County’s use of supplemental water supplies from Lake Nacimiento has been anticipated since 1959. The County Master Water Plan recognizes that continued reliance on groundwater supplies may result in significant damage to local aquifers, and recommends that a variety of water projects be developed to diversify water sources, reduce reliance on groundwater, and meet long-term forecasted water demand.	
Findings	Land Use consistency – the project pipeline and facilities are either potentially consistent or consistent with the land use designations. Therefore there will be no significant impacts from the project, as the project is compatible with the underlying land use designations outlined in SLO County’s General Plan, and with those of affected Federal, State, and local government entities.
Supportive Evidence: Government Code Section 53091 exempts local agencies from obtaining land use permits for the development of water supply systems. No General Plan amendments or rezoning applications would be necessary to construct the proposed Water Intake and Pump Station at Lake Nacimiento in an area designated as Open Space (OS). Similarly, no change in land use designation would be required to permit the water storage tanks, water recharge areas, or pump stations when located in agricultural (AG) or OS areas. Consistency determinations are contained in Table 5.9.2, pages 5.9-9-5.9-10 of the Final EIR.	
Water treatment plants are defined as Public Utility Facilities, which are considered consistent with SLO	

County’s AG and RS land use categories as a special use (S). Public utility facilities are allowable, subject to the requirements of section 22.08.288 of the County Land Use Ordinance. These permit requirements include approval of a Development Plan, an Environmental Quality Assurance Program, minimization of the amount of vegetation removal, replacement of topsoil and vegetation, and the establishment of effective visual barriers. As a public project, the proposed project would not be required to comply with this ordinance; however, the intent of the ordinance provisions would be met by the project’s compliance with the mitigation measures contained in the EIR.

Utilities and Public Services	
Impact UP.4	Impacts to Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services (FEIR page 5.10-11).
Mitigation	<p>UP-2 A Wildland Fire Prevention Plan (WFPP) shall be required for the proposed installation of the pipeline and other facilities. This plan will help to reduce the threat of wildland fires and provide a fire safe environment to communities in the area of the proposed pipeline construction.</p> <p>UP-3 Final design plans for each facility shall adhere to all fire safety requirements as contained in the SLO County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Developer’s Guide.</p>
Findings	With the implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts to fire protection services would be considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Construction activities associated with installation of the pipeline and other proposed facilities would increase the probability for a wildland fire to occur because there would be diesel and gasoline fuelled machinery present and refueling operations occurring in high fire hazard areas (rural areas with dry vegetation). Large portions of the pipeline would be installed through wild fire prone areas known as State Responsibility Areas. These areas include the following pipeline stretches: from the Nacimiento Reservoir Water Intake to the western Camp Roberts boundary (approximately Stas. 00+00—275+00); from the eastern Camp Roberts boundary at the pump station to the northern boundary of the City of Paso Robles (approximately Stas. 564+00—980+00), from the southern boundary of Atascadero to the northern boundary of Santa Margarita, from western boundary of Santa Margarita to the urban areas near City of San Luis Obispo. There are several other small portions of the southern part of the pipeline route that would be within the State Responsibility Areas. Declared wildland fire season is normally May through November, portions of the pipeline would be installed during this season.</p> <p>Operation of the pump stations and other facilities would present an additional demand to the fire protection services because flammable materials would be handled at these facilities. The facilities are located in places accessible to the fire protection and emergency response services. It is required that the design of each facility is in compliance with the fire safety requirements included in various codes, ordinances, and national standards adopted by SLO County (e.g., Uniform Fire Code, Uniform Building Code). These standards are contained in the SLO County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Developer’s Guide.</p>	

Transportation and Circulation	
Impact T.1	Construction associated with the project would temporarily add to local road traffic (FEIR page 5.11-15).

<p>Mitigation</p>	<p>T-1 All project-related traffic shall be restricted from travel on roads with a LOS of D or worse between the peak commuting hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. These include Union Rd./Highway 4; Madonna Road; Highway 227 in San Luis Obispo; Highway 101 at the junction with Highway 166, South Pismo Beach, Avila Road, Santa Fe Road, Los Osos Valley Road, Marsh Street, California Boulevard; and Highway 46 at Paso Robles, Spring Street, 13th Street, Creston Road, Niblick Road, Airport Road and El Camino Real.</p> <p>T-2 A Traffic Control Plan shall be prepared to detail specific roadway construction information, road surface maintenance, pedestrian/bicycle circulation and traffic safety, parking limitations, road use restrictions, emergency response procedures, signing for closures, and public notification identifying location, scheduling, and duration of construction spread. This management plan shall be finalized and approved by the appropriate agencies as designated by the lead agencies.</p>														
<p>Findings</p>	<p>By avoiding peak commute periods, temporary construction traffic would create less impact and would be considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).</p>														
<p>Supportive Evidence: Traffic data for the roads that would be affected by the project have been obtained from available sources. Construction traffic would temporarily increase local road traffic by the amounts shown in Table below:</p>															
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Daily Construction Traffic by Project Phase</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Construction Project Phase</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Daily Trips</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Camp Roberts Pump Station and Storage Tanks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pump Station (each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water Intake</td> <td style="text-align: center;">38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pipeline (each one of four alignments)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water Storage Tanks (each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Daily Construction Traffic by Project Phase		Construction Project Phase	Daily Trips	Camp Roberts Pump Station and Storage Tanks	130	Pump Station (each)	76	Water Intake	38	Pipeline (each one of four alignments)	40	Water Storage Tanks (each)	54
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<p>The addition of construction traffic on Madonna Road, Highway 227, and sections of Highway 101 between Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo would exceed the significance threshold of 15 vehicles to roadways with a LOS of D or worse.</p>															
<p>Impact T.2</p>	<p>Pipeline construction would require partial road closures and reduce the number of travel lanes during peak traffic periods for roadways with an LOS of D or worse, resulting in a disruption of traffic flow and/or traffic congestion (FEIR page 5.11-15).</p>														
<p>Mitigation</p>	<p>Implement mitigation measure T-2.</p> <p>T-3 Pipeline construction across Nacimiento Lake Drive shall be scheduled to avoid late afternoons, weekends, and holidays during the summer months.</p> <p>T-4 Detours shall be planned around temporary street closures through coordination with local traffic agencies, and signs shall be provided to direct motorists</p>														

	<p>to alternate routes.</p> <p>T-5 The Applicant shall ensure at least one lane remain open during construction along roadways subject to partial closure when feasible.</p> <p>T-6 The Applicant shall provide off-street parking and staging areas for storage of construction equipment, materials, and workers' vehicles.</p>
Findings	By creating detours and minimizing lane closures, the impact would be not significant with mitigation (Class II).

Supportive Evidence: The pipeline would run beneath or along the shoulder of roadways for much of the route. Table below lists the partial road closures that would result from pipeline construction and the number of lanes that would remain open during the temporary road closure. The traffic volumes on most of these roads are small enough that the impact of partial road closures would be considered insignificant. For Nacimiento Lake Drive, Highway 1, Madonna Road, Foothill Boulevard, and Highway 227 that have relatively high traffic volumes, lane closures could result in significant delays. Other project roadways with high traffic volumes, such as Highway 101, would be jacked and bored under by the pipeline to avoid creating traffic impacts.

While most of the roadways along the pipeline route would be affected by temporary lane closures, only one road has a LOS of D or worse: Union Road/Highway 41. The pipeline route runs along the narrow western shoulder of North River Drive at the intersection with Union Road/Highway 41 and would require the southbound lane of North River Drive to be closed for several days. Nacimiento Lake Drive, which has an LOS of C and can become congested due to slow moving traffic and high traffic volume on weekends and holidays, would also be affected by lane closure. A lane closure, however, would only last several days and would be on the north side of the dam, beyond the entrance to Lake Nacimiento Resort.

Lane Closures and Driveways Blocked during Construction

Roadway	Level of Service	No. of Traffic Lanes Available in Construction Zone	Driveways or Property Entrances/Exits Blocked?
Nacimiento Lake Drive	C	1	Yes
San Marcos Road	A	1	No
Wellsona Road	A	1	Yes
Monterey Road	No data	1	Yes
North River Road	A	1	Yes
South River Road	A	1	Yes
Santa Ysabel Road	A	1	Yes
Vaquero Drive	A	1	Yes
El Pomar Road	A	1	Yes
Templeton Road	A	1	Yes
Rocky Canyon Road	A	1	Yes
Vineyard Drive Bridge (Treated water option)	A	1	No
Santa Clara Road	A	1	Yes
El Camino Real	A	1	Yes

Lane Closures and Driveways Blocked during Construction

Roadway	Level of Service	No. of Traffic Lanes Available in Construction Zone	Driveways or Property Entrances/Exits Blocked?
Highway 41 Bridge (Treated water option)	A	1	No
Booster station road	No data	1	No
Tassajara Creek Road	A	1	No
Stenner Creek Road	A	1	Yes
Highway 1	C	Two-way*	No
Highland Drive	B	1	Yes
Patricia Drive	A	1	Yes
Foothill Boulevard	A	1	Yes
Madonna Road	D	Two-way*	Yes
Dalidio Road	B	1	Yes
Prado Road	A	1	Yes
Highway 227	F	Two-way*	Yes
Santa Fe Road	A	1	Yes
Buckley Road	A	1	Yes
Davenport Road	No data	1	No

Note: *Denotes that a minimum of two lanes are available to support bi-directional traffic flow.

Impact T.3	Partial street closures would temporarily restrict access to and from private property and adjacent land uses (FEIR page 5.11-17).
Mitigation	Implement mitigation measures T-2 and T-5. T-7 The Applicant shall ensure all driveways blocked by construction are provided with suitable means of vehicular access and egress. T-8 All affected parties in the vicinity of construction activities shall be notified a minimum of 30 days in advance of potential obstructions and alternative access provisions prior to the commencement of project activities.
Findings	The above mitigation measures would render the impact not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Properties on roadways listed in Table for Impact T.2 above would be affected by temporary access restrictions. However, the restricted access would last no more than 2 days for most locations.	
Impact T.4	Construction activities could interfere with emergency response by ambulance, fire, paramedic, and police vehicles (FEIR page 5.11-18).
Mitigation	Implement mitigation measures T-2 and T-5.

	<p>T-9 The Applicant shall coordinate in advance with emergency service providers to avoid restricting movements of emergency vehicles. The County Sheriff Department, fire departments, ambulance services, and paramedic services shall be notified in advance by the Applicant of the proposed locations, nature, timing, and duration of any construction activities and consulted regarding potential access restrictions that could impact their effectiveness.</p> <p>T-10 At locations where access to nearby property is blocked, provision shall be ready at all times to accommodate emergency vehicles, such as plating over trenches, short detours, and alternate routes.</p>
Findings	Coordinating in advance of construction with emergency service providers and by providing emergency access, the impact would be rendered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Analysis of maps indicated that pipeline construction would be near Atascadero State Hospital, and along Highway 1 between Stenner Creek Road and Highland Street, which in the vicinity of the Sierra Vista Medical Center (e.g., ambulance response on Casa and Murray Streets).	
Impact T.6	Construction activities could result in physical damage to road surfaces (FEIR page 5.11-19).
Mitigation	T-13 The Applicant shall properly restore all roads disturbed by construction activities to ensure the long term protection of road surfaces and safety of roadway users.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation the impact would be considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: The Applicant intends to restore the damaged roads. The mitigation will ensure the restoration.	
Impact T.8	A pipeline failure could disrupt traffic during repairs (FEIR page 5.11-20).
Mitigation	Refer to the pipeline inspection mitigation measure in Section 5.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials. T-14 The pipeline emergency response plan shall include traffic agency and personnel contact protocols and agencies to contact for road closures, alternative traffic routes, CalTrans, SLO County. Construction for pipeline repairs that requires road or lane closures or endanger public safety must comply with the Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones is published by CalTrans. The manual provides the basic standards for uniform types of warning signs, lights, and devices to be placed upon any public highway or street by any person engaged in performing work that interferes with or endangers the safe movement of traffic upon such highway or street, in accordance with Section 21400 of the California Vehicle Code.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation the impact would be considered not significant

	with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: A pipeline failure could necessitate temporary traffic disruptions for repair and replacement. These disruptions could include temporary road and lane closures and limited access to driveways, private property, and sidewalks. Analysis of traffic along the pipeline route indicated that some streets have LOS of C or worse. See also “Supportive Evidence” for Impacts T.1 and T.2.</p>	

Aesthetics and Visual Resources	
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Impact VR.1	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of water intake structures at Nacimiento Dam (FEIR page 5.12-12).
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Mitigation	<p>The determination on the final design and construction materials of the Water Intake structure has not been made. It is proposed that the following measures be implemented in the final design and construction plan of the Intake structure.</p> <p>VR-1 The Water Intake structures shall be visually compatible in materials of construction and color with the surrounding area of the Lake Nacimiento dam incorporating natural rock facing. During construction, the Applicant’s contractor shall preserve as much of the existing vegetation (trees and shrubbery) as feasible.</p> <p>VR-2 The structures shall be screened from public views with vegetation to the maximum extent feasible. Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with Section 22.04.186 of the San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinance and shall provide vegetation that will adequately screen the facilities.</p> <p>VR-3 The surge tank and power line shall be placed underground.</p>
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Findings	The proposed mitigation measures would reduce the significant visual impact of the Intake structures to not significant with mitigation (Class II).
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Supportive Evidence: Visual simulation of the structures has been done in the FEIR. The Water Intake structures (including the pump station building, electric transformer building, surge tank, and electrical pole) would be located on the northern side of the Nacimiento Dam and will be visible to the travelers on the Nacimiento Lake Drive, which is a designated scenic route (SLO County 1974). The visual sensitivity of the typical viewer will be relatively high since the most common reason for traveling to the area is for recreational purposes. The visual quality of the area is relatively high and a man-made object in the proposed location has the potential to create a negative visual impact since there are very few man-made structures in the adjacent area.

The Nacimiento Area Plan designates Nacimiento Lake Drive as a county Scenic Route with a Sensitive Resource Area (SRA) overlay extending 500 feet from the centerline of the road. The proposed water intake and electrical transformer structures would be located just outside of the designated scenic corridor, although the intake parking lot and the fence would be within the SRA. The structure is not likely to be visible to the boats on the lake because the part of the lake in the vicinity of the dam is off limits to the general public due to safety concerns.

Impact VR.4	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of surge tank in the vicinity of Templeton treated water pipeline turnout site (FEIR page 5.12-18).
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Mitigation	VR-6 The surge tank shall be constructed underground in a vault to minimize aboveground equipment.
Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measure the residual impact would be considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The proposed surge tank would be 32-feet long and 8 feet in diameter, and would be visible from Vineyard Drive (as was determined through visual simulation done for the FEIR). The structure would be painted in colors that would be compatible with the surrounding area to the maximum extent feasible, although compatibility would change throughout the year because the main feature in the area is characterized by vegetation.</p> <p>Vineyard Drive/Templeton Road intersection is undeveloped and can be characterized as a rural, agricultural area with rolling hills and sweeping views of the surrounding area. The area is not pristine from the aesthetic point of view, and has several man-made structures (e.g., industrial building across the Salinas River, power poles).</p>	
Impact VR.5	Visual impacts due to long-term presence of Rocky Canyon Road storage tank and Happy Valley pump station (FEIR page 5.12-19).
Mitigation	<p>VR-7 The pump station structures shall be constructed partially underground to limit the structure height to the equivalent of a one story home or barn typical of the area. The architecture of the pump station shall resemble a home or barn typical of the area.</p> <p>VR-8 No oak trees adjacent to Rocky Canyon Road shall be removed to accommodate the construction of the pump station or storage tank at this location.</p> <p>VR-9 Access roads to and around the facility shall not exceed 20 feet in width.</p> <p>VR-10 All structures at this site shall be screened from public views with vegetation to the maximum extent feasible. Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with Section 22.04.186 of the San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinance and shall provide vegetation that will adequately screen the facilities.</p> <p>For the tank area where fencing surrounding the tank site would be located, landscape screening shall be provided. Landscape material must be consistent with the surrounding area, shown to do well in existing soils and conditions, be fast-growing, evergreen and drought tolerant. Shape and size of landscape material shall be in scale with proposed tank fencing or other aboveground features and surrounding native vegetation. Plans shall show how plants will be watered and what watering schedule will be applied to ensure successful and vigorous growth.</p> <p>VR-11 The border of cut slopes and fills accomplished to underground the water storage tank shall be rounded off to a minimum radius of five feet. For any visible slope cuts from Rocky Canyon Road, sufficient topsoil shall be stockpiled and reapplied or re-keyed over these visible cut areas to provide at least 8" of topsoil for the reestablishment of vegetation. As soon as the grading work has been completed, the cut and fill slopes shall be reestablished with non-invasive, fast-growing vegetation.</p>

Findings	After implementation of the mitigation measures the residual impact would be considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The pump station structure would be visible to the public that uses Rocky Canyon Road (as was determined through visual simulation done for the FEIR). The storage tank would be undergrounded as per the proposed project, so the only features that would be visible after the tank construction completion would be the access road, the cut and reinforced hill slopes and the fencing around the site. Rocky Canyon Road is not heavily traveled with an ADT of 794; therefore there will not be many viewers of the storage tank site and pump station structures. There are other structures located along this road, such as residential homes, barns and utility poles (as was determined through area surveys). Also, the storage tank site and pump station would be partially screened from views by the existing vegetation, e.g., oak trees located along the road.</p> <p>The area immediately surrounding the tank and pump station site is pristine and does not have any man-made structures, except for barbed wire fencing along Rocky Canyon Road, therefore the views are high in visual quality in this rolling hills/agricultural countryside area.</p>	

Agricultural Resources	
Impact AG.1	Water pipeline construction within the roads ROW has the potential to adversely impact access to and maintenance of agricultural operations (FEIR page 5.13-9).
Mitigation	AG-1 Prior to and during construction, the Applicant shall coordinate construction activity time schedules with all owners of agricultural operations adjacent to the construction site. All property owners shall be notified 30-days in advance of the construction activities occurring in the vicinity of their operations.
Findings	Implementation of the above mitigation measure will result in agricultural compatibility impacts considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The Applicant proposes to access the pipeline route using established access roadways that are currently traveled by farm equipment and/or railroad personnel accessing the rail. Transport of construction equipment and personnel could cause conflicts with current traffic, having a short-term impact on access routes used for crop harvesting or agricultural maintenance by impeding access and slowing agricultural traffic.</p>	
Impact AG.2	Water pipeline construction (including fence removal and trenching) along property boundaries has the potential to impact ranching and livestock operations (FEIR page 5.13-10).
Mitigation	<p>AG-2 Prior to construction, the Applicant shall coordinate with landowners to discuss the timing of pipeline construction through agricultural areas containing livestock. Subject to negotiations with livestock owners, the Applicant shall either provide ample time for the livestock to be relocated during the pipeline construction, or construct a temporary fence around the pipeline corridor to keep livestock from entering the areas during construction.</p> <p>AG-3 During construction, where construction activities require removal of existing fencing adjacent to grazing lands, a temporary fence shall be installed and maintained</p>

	by the Applicant to keep grazing animals away from construction activities and trenching. Trenches shall be filled, covered, or enclosed by fencing at the end of each workday to reduce chances of animal injuries. Following construction, fences and posts shall be replaced.
Findings	Implementation of the above mitigation measures will result in agricultural compatibility impacts considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Because the proposed pipeline route follows the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way, state highways, county roads, and city roads along parcel boundaries of agricultural lands, the proposed project is likely to require temporary fence removal and other disturbances in some areas that are used for cattle grazing, thoroughbred horse operations, and other ranching operations. The construction trenching and excavation will create open trenches that could be hazardous for grazing animals if fence removal allows access to the construction area. The proposed project would disturb areas currently used for the grazing of cattle.	
Impact AG.3	Water pipeline construction and placement of staging areas on agricultural lands have the potential to permanently impact soils on grazing and croplands due to improper soil replacement and/or reseeding efforts.
Mitigation	<p>AG-4 During construction, trenches shall be backfilled by the Applicant in such a manner as to retain the topsoil characteristics. Where soil is disturbed on lands used for agricultural purposes, topsoil shall be stockpiled and replaced on top of trenches and excavations after the backfill operations to allow rapid revegetation of these lands following construction.</p> <p>AG-5 Upon completion of construction, areas disturbed by the project (including trenching or placement of staging areas) within agricultural grazing areas shall be re-seeded by the Applicant with a seed mixture acceptable to affected landowners.</p> <p>AG-6 All offsite staging areas shall be restricted to areas already disturbed, when feasible, and where staging would be compatible with existing land uses.</p> <p>Implementation of Measures DE-8, DE-12, DE-18 and DE-19 (see Section 5.3, Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation) would further reduce this impact.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the above mitigation measures will result in agricultural compatibility impacts considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
Supportive Evidence: Proposed trenching and excavation activities have the potential to disturb the soil on or adjacent to grazing and croplands where construction areas extend outside designated UPRR and road right-of-ways. Loss or improper replacement of topsoil and improper reseeding of disturbed areas may have short- and long-term effects on adjacent agricultural areas. Erosion and loss of topsoil could occur also due to storm water runoff from impervious surfaces at the project facilities (see also Impact DE.6). <p>Placement of staging areas on agricultural lands would also disturb or damage crops or topsoil.</p>	
Impact AG.3	Water pipeline construction activities have the potential to adversely impact

	agricultural lands through the spread of noxious weeds or wind-borne dust.
Mitigation	<p>Implement mitigation measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 to minimize the airborne transport of seeds.</p> <p>AG-7 Prior to construction, the Applicant shall coordinate with the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office to conduct a pre-construction site evaluation for purple thistle, yellow thistle and skeletonweed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the pre-construction survey, the Applicant shall prepare a map showing areas of noxious weed infestation on lands both within and adjacent to the proposed project corridor, corridor access routes, and staging areas. - The Applicant shall implement equipment wash stations and other pertinent noxious weed control recommendations based on the above required map. - The Applicant shall perform post-construction surveys during the spring growing season immediately following each phase of project construction to verify whether the spread of noxious weeds has occurred. - If the post-construction survey identifies spread of noxious weeds, the Applicant shall coordinate with the affected landowner and the County Department of Agriculture to implement an appropriate eradication program. <p>AG-8 During construction, topsoil shall be segregated and replaced relative to its original distribution. To the maximum extent feasible, excavated materials shall be replaced in the same location they were removed from, and shall not be transported offsite.</p> <p>AG-9 Prior to construction, the Applicant will enter into a Quarantine Compliance Agreement with the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office for the prevention of movement of skeleton weed.</p>
Findings	Implementation of the above mitigation measure will result in agricultural compatibility impacts considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: SLO County’s Department of Agriculture identifies several noxious weed species that may exist within the pipeline corridor that could be spread by construction activities. The weeds include but are not limited to, purple starthistle, yellow starthistle and skeletonweed. These noxious weeds have the potential to invade rangelands and open grasslands, degrading the forage quality and hindering access for both humans and livestock. Spread of noxious weeds has the potential to occur during the construction phase of the project as trenching and other equipment is transferred from one area of the project to another (such as from public road right-of-ways onto private land).</p>	

Recreational Resources	
Impact REC.3	Open trench construction along the following reaches would result in short-term impacts to bicyclists: Rocky Canyon Road to Santa Margarita, Santa Margarita to the Cuesta Tunnel, Cuesta Tunnel to San Luis Obispo WTP, San Luis Obispo WTP to Highway 227/Santa Fe Road, and Highway 227 (FEIR page 5.14-18).
Mitigation	REC-1 Prior to initiating construction, the Applicant shall coordinate with the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works and provide signage along the

	<p>length of all affected roads advising bicyclists of the temporary construction and the estimated period of construction along these routes. The signage should also alert bicyclists and vehicular traffic of the need to exercise caution.</p> <p>REC-2 During construction of segments at the edge of or off pavement, the construction crews shall keep all pot hole and bore equipment and trenching equipment off of the paved roadway to the maximum extent feasible to allow bicyclists to continue to use the road. (Note: Exceptions to this measure shall include situations where sensitive habitat is located adjacent to roadways and where safety issues exist.)</p> <p>REC-3 During construction when equipment is located in the roadway, the Applicant shall provide one flag person to separately guide bicyclists and motor vehicles past the construction zone.</p> <p>REC-4 Upon completion of construction within this subsection, the Applicant shall replace all bicycle lanes that have been damaged by the construction process to County standards (or other jurisdictional standards such as the various Cities if applicable) for Class I and Class II bicycle lanes, as appropriate. In addition, if any paint is scuffed, the Applicant shall repaint the affected bicycle lane markings.</p>
Findings	<p>Due to the short-term duration of construction along various reaches and the resulting number of limited bicyclists therefore impacted along the pipeline route, implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce recreational resource impacts to a level considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).</p>
<p>Supportive Evidence:</p> <p><u>Rocky Canyon Road to Santa Margarita:</u> The bicycle lanes would primarily remain open during the construction of the route; however, short portions of the bicycle lane may be temporarily closed for brief (6 hour) periods in some locations to allow for the open trench construction. Bicyclists would be subject to traffic control through the construction zone, along with vehicular traffic. For safety purposes, bicyclists would not share a lane with motorists, but would be routed by flaggers either before or after the vehicular traffic passed the construction zone.</p> <p><u>Santa Margarita to the Cuesta Tunnel:</u> The bicycle lanes would primarily remain open during the construction of the route; however, short portions of the bicycle lane may be closed for brief (6 hour) periods in some locations to allow for the open trench construction. Bicyclists would be subject to traffic control through the construction zone, along with vehicular traffic. For safety purposes, bicyclists would not share a lane with motorists, but would be routed by flaggers either before or after the vehicular traffic passed the construction zone.</p> <p><u>Cuesta Tunnel to San Luis Obispo WTP:</u> Sections of this reach of pipeline would traverse and run down the center of Stenner Creek Road. Stenner Creek Road runs through Cal Poly State University property and is used for a variety of recreational activities including hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Temporary closures/disturbances would occur to recreational resources along Stenner Creek Road as a result of the trenching associated with pipeline construction.</p> <p><u>San Luis Obispo WTP to Highway 227/Santa Fe Road:</u> The bicycle lanes would primarily remain open during the construction of the route; however, short portions of the bicycle lane may be closed for brief (6 hour) periods in some locations to allow for the open trench construction. Bicyclists would be subject to traffic control through the construction zone, along with vehicular traffic. For safety purposes, bicyclists</p>	

<p>would not share a lane with motorists, but would be routed by flaggers either before or after the vehicular traffic passed the construction zone.</p> <p><u>Highway 227:</u> The bicycle lanes would primarily remain open during the construction of the route; however, short portions of the bicycle lane may be closed for brief (6 hour) periods in some locations to allow for the open trench construction. Bicyclists would be subject to traffic control through the construction zone, along with vehicular traffic. For safety purposes, bicyclists would not share a lane with motorists, but would be routed by flaggers either before or after the vehicular traffic passed the construction zone.</p>	
Impact REC.4	Partial loss of access to recreational opportunities at Laguna Lake Park due to water pipeline installation activities along Reach No. 10 (Sta. 2520+00-2935+00) near Dalidio Drive in San Luis Obispo (FEIR page 5.14-22).
Mitigation	<p>REC-5 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the Applicant shall coordinate with the City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department (SLOPRD) for the project schedule so that the SLOPRD can minimize conflicts with any special events that are scheduled during the construction period.</p> <p>REC-6 Prior to authorization to proceed or issuance of permits, the Applicant shall coordinate with the SLOPRD and City of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department to provide signage directing traffic around construction activity.</p>
Findings	Because of the short-term duration of construction along Dalidio Drive and the resulting number of limited recreational users therefore impacted along the pipeline route, implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce recreational resource impacts to a level considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: Laguna Lake Community Park is located within the City of San Luis Obispo and consists of 375 acres of open space surrounding Laguna Lake with picnicking and barbequing facilities, volleyball courts, and several miles of fitness trails. Primary park access is located on Dalidio Drive. Access to the park may be temporarily partially impeded during pipeline installation activities entering into and along Dalidio Drive.</p>	
Impact REC.5	Portions of the adopted Salinas River Trail System may need to be re-routed due to the construction of water discharge facilities (FEIR page 5.14-22).
Mitigation	REC-7 Prior to construction, the water purveyor responsible for the individual discharge facility construction shall provide for a 25-foot wide trail corridor easement, subject to County review, to connect those impacted portions of the Salinas River Trail System.
Findings	Because the proposed trail is not yet constructed and existing recreational patterns would not be impeded, implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce recreational resource impacts to a level considered not significant with mitigation (Class II).
<p>Supportive Evidence: The Salinas River Trail System is an adopted trail route along the Salinas River from Santa Margarita Lake to the Monterey County line. The trail is proposed to be a multi-use route with</p>	

opportunities for bicyclists, hikers and equestrians. The proposed project's raw water option would involve the construction of three water discharge facilities located along the Salinas River in Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero. The water discharge facilities would either have a pond or a subsurface pipe design and would require various areas to be set aside for water discharge activities. The area required for the subsurface pipe design would be 8.0 acres for Paso Robles, 1.0 acre for Templeton, and 6.0 acres for Atascadero. The area required for the pond configurations would be 4.0 acres for Paso Robles, 0.3 acre for Templeton, and 3.1 acres for Atascadero. Depending on their design configuration, these water discharge facilities may be located on or near areas designated for portions of the Salinas River Trail System.

IX. Potential Significant Unavoidable Effects for Which Sufficient Mitigation Is not Available

Air Quality	
Impact AQ.1	Construction activities would generate air emissions that would impact air quality in the area. (FEIR page 5.4-12)
Mitigation	<p>AQ-1 In coordination with the SLOAPCD, the Applicant shall implement the following APCD standard dust reduction measures during construction. All PM₁₀ mitigation measures required shall be shown on the contractor's grading and building plans and specifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible. b. Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible. c. All dirt stockpile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed. d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities. e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast-germinating native grass seed and watered until vegetation is established. f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the SLOAPCD. g. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. h. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site. i. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should

	<p>maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114. This measure has the potential to reduce PM₁₀ emissions by 7–14%.</p> <p>j. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site. This measure has the potential to reduce PM₁₀ emissions by 40–70%.</p> <p>k. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible. This measure has the potential to reduce PM₁₀ emissions by 25–60%.</p> <p>l. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to any site disturbance.</p> <p>AQ-2 The Applicant shall implement activity management techniques as feasible taking into account other mitigation measures that affect scheduling (e.g., Biology, Transportation/Circulation and Noise mitigation measures) during construction, as presented below:</p> <p>a. Development of a comprehensive construction activity management plan designed to minimize the amount of large construction equipment operating during any given time period;</p> <p>b. Scheduling of construction truck trips during non-peak hours to reduce peak hour emissions;</p> <p>c. Limiting the length of the construction work-day period, if necessary, during periods with high air pollutant levels;</p> <p>d. Phasing of construction activities, if appropriate.</p> <p>AQ-3 The Applicant shall implement the following standard NO_x and ROC reduction measures to the maximum extent feasible:</p> <p>a. Use of Caterpillar pre-chamber diesel engines (or equivalent) together with proper maintenance and operation to reduce emissions of NO_x.</p> <p>b. Electrify equipment where feasible.</p> <p>c. Maintain all fossil-fuelled equipment in tune per manufacturer's specifications, except as otherwise required above.</p> <p>d. Encourage use of catalytic converters on gasoline-powered equipment.</p> <p>e. Substitute gasoline-powered for diesel-powered equipment, where feasible.</p> <p>f. Implement activity management techniques as described in AQ-2.</p> <p>g. Use compressed natural gas (CNG) or propane powered portable equipment (e.g., compressors, generators, etc.) onsite instead of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible.</p> <p>h. All off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to</p>
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	<p>bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, auxiliary power units, shall be fuelled exclusively with CARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel. Off-road equipment may use tax exempt motor vehicle fuel if not operated on public roads.</p> <p>i. Maximize to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the CARB’s 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines.</p> <p>AQ-4 Because NOx emissions are above the threshold, Best Available Control Technology for Construction Equipment (CBACT) shall be used to mitigate combustion emissions from heavy-duty construction equipment such as but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), catalyzed diesel particulate filters (CDPF) or other District-approved emission reduction retrofit devices. In particular, the Applicant shall ensure installation of CDPFs on 6 (six) pieces of construction equipment involved in the primary earthmoving and construction activities and projected to generate the greatest emissions (if DOCs are used, installing of five (5) DOCs would be an equivalent of installing of one CDPF). The SLO APCD staff shall be included in the selection of candidate equipment along with a representative of the contractor (or subcontractor). (This measure shall be included and clearly identified in the project bid specifications so that contractors bidding in the project can include the purchase, proper installation and maintenance costs in their bids.), and - Emission control device installation, use, and maintenance records shall be maintained by the contractor that operates the controlled construction equipment using forms provided by the APCD. The APCD or lead agency representatives shall be allowed to review this documentation and the controlled equipment as needed to ensure that mitigation requirements are being met.
Findings	<p>After implementation of the mitigation measures the project construction air quality impacts could still remain <i>significant</i> (Class I) due to potentially high emissions of NOx that is significantly over the SLOAPCD threshold.</p>
<p>Supportive Evidence: Air emissions from construction and offsite equipment were estimated using the emission factors from the EPA’s AP-42 Compilation of Pollutants Emission Factors (EPA 1985). These emissions are summarized in table below and are over the APCD thresholds of significance.</p>	

Summary of Construction Emissions

Construction Phase	Peak Daily Emission (lbs/day)					Quarterly Emissions (tons/qtr)				
	CO	ROC	NOx	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	CO	ROC	NOx	SO ₂	PM ₁₀
Water Intake*	86.9	16.8	179.2	18.2	17.2	2.91	0.57	5.41	0.55	0.45
Pump Station*	61.4	11.2	138.9	14.8	11.6	1.47	0.29	3.22	0.33	0.25
Pipeline*	417.8	80.0	872.4	89.2	118.4	18.21	3.67	31.22	2.92	2.96
Discharge Area	36.9	5.9	81.3	9.5	17.6	1.16	0.18	2.61	0.31	0.32
Water Storage Facility	57.5	10.8	120.7	13.0	16.8	1.46	0.29	2.83	0.30	0.30
Worst Case Total*	623.6	118.8	1,311.2	135.2	164.0	24.03	4.83	42.68	4.09	3.96
Significance Criteria	-	185	185	-	185	-	2-6	2-6	-	2-6
Significant?		No	Yes		No		Yes	Yes		Yes

Note: * The worst case emissions total is when construction of pipeline overlaps with construction of three other facilities (e.g., water intake, storage tank and a pump station).

Growth Inducement

Impact G.1	Countywide, the growth inducing impacts of accepting supplemental water supplies from the NWP could be considered significant, adverse and unavoidable. However, locally impacts could vary depending on how project supplies are used by each project participant (FEIR page 7-9).
Mitigation	None available
Findings	Potential significant unavoidable impacts (Class I) to air quality, traffic, and school systems.
Supportive Evidence: The availability of water has been a limiting factor to growth in the following areas: Templeton, Santa Margarita and Santa Margarita Ranch, SLO and the unincorporated SLO Airport Area (CSA 22, and Fiero Lane Water Company), Edna Valley (Edna Valley Mutual Water Company), and Cayucos. Factors which contribute to water being limited include waiting lists for “will-serve” letters, low producing wells, reliability problems with wells, overdrafted groundwater basins, and developer offset requirements, such as retrofits in exchange for approval of new construction. With NWP supplies available to the purveyor, water as a limiting factor to growth would potentially be removed in these communities. The impacts of growth are described in Area Plans and associated environmental documents, available from the local jurisdiction. Table G-1 below displays the status of General and Area Plans for participating NWP agencies in SLO County. Table G-2 displays constraining issues and existing mitigations for areas scheduled to receive NWP supplies.	

Table G-1 Status of General Plans for Areas Affected by the NWP

Community	Description
San Luis Obispo County	Salinas Area Plan 1996. San Luis Obispo Area Plan 1997. Estero Planning Area (Cayucos), 1988. Plan Update, Public Review Draft, 2002.
City of Paso Robles	Land Use and Circulation Elements 1991. FEIR certified August 1991.
City of Atascadero	Land Use, Open Space & Conservation Element of the General Plan 2002. FEIR on Update of Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, Certified 2002.
City of San Luis Obispo	General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element, 1994, Update Draft, 2002. Land Use Element and Circulation Element, 1994. Water and Wastewater Management, 1996. FEIR certified August 1994.

Table G-2 Summary of Issues and Mitigations in Areas Scheduled to Receive Nacimiento Water

Area	Growth Constraining Issues (RLOS Level ^a)	Existing Mitigations
San Miguel	Schools (III) Air Quality (II)	Schools Facilities Fees Clean Air Plan
Paso Robles	Schools (III) Air Quality (II)	Schools Facilities Fees Clean Air Plan
Atascadero	Schools (III) Air Quality (II)	School Facilities Fees Growth Management Ordinance, Clean Air Plan
Templeton CSD	Schools (III) Roads (I) Water Systems (II) Air Quality (II)	School Facilities Fees Traffic Fees (Res. 91-369) ^d Public Facilities Fees ^{b,c} Clean Air Plan
Santa Margarita	Schools (III) Air Quality (II) Water System (II) Water Supply (supply uncertainty)	Schools Facilities Fees Clean Air Plan Public Facilities Fees ^{b,c}
San Luis Obispo Urban	Schools (II) SLO Creek Ground Water Basin (II) Roads (III) Air Quality (II)	School Facilities Fees Growth Management Ordinance Clean Air Plan
San Luis Obispo Rural	Schools (II) Air Quality (II)	School Facilities Fees Clean Air Plan
Cayucos	Water Supply (II) Water System (II) Schools (III) Air Quality (II)	Water Moratorium on Building Permits Public Facilities Fees ^{b,c} School Facilities Fees Clean Air Plan
SLCUSD	Schools (II, none)	School Facilities Fees

Notes: I = Least severe; II = Moderately severe; III = Most severe.

RLOS=Recommended level of service; SLCUSD=San Luis Coastal Unified School District;

^a Based on 2002 Annual Resource Summary Report, San Luis Obispo County Department of Building and Planning.

^b General Fees used for construction, expansion, or improvement of fire, general government, parks and recreational facilities, and sheriff's patrols that are needed as a result of new development. Fees effective December 16, 1991.

^c Applicable to 1) land divisions; 2) projects requiring development plans, site plans, Minor Use Permit Coastal Development Permit, and/or variance; 3) projects requiring building permits; and 4) development subject to approval of Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Planning Director, or Chief Building Official.

^d Fees used for capital improvements; applicable to residential and commercial development.

X. Cumulative and Growth Inducing Impacts

Cumulative Impacts

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as

“two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts”. Further, “the cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time”.

The Guidelines require the discussion of cumulative impacts to reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence. However, the discussion need not be as detailed as the analysis of impacts associated with the project, and should be guided by the rule of reason.

Cumulative impacts associated with construction and operation of the Nacimiento Water Project are discussed in the topical analysis sections provided in Section 4.0 of the Final EIR.

Findings:

- Cumulative air quality impacts associated with construction and operation of the project facilities. These impacts are considered unavoidable and significant.
- Cumulative significant and unavoidable traffic impacts due to lane/road closures and delays for emergency vehicle traffic would be significant, if the Nacimiento dam spillway construction activities of the SVWP coincide with the intake and pump station construction of the proposed project.
- Cumulative impacts to visual resources - would result due to the cumulative water withdrawals from Lake Nacimiento would result in more frequent instances of lake level below 748 feet, and would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts to visual resources.
- Cumulative impacts to recreational resources that are significant and unavoidable would be expected. The cumulative development scenario would result in increased lake drawdowns below recreational threshold levels of 748 feet, and would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts to recreational resources on and around Lake Nacimiento.
- The cumulative impacts on water quality from the SVWP and NWP projects would potentially increase the level of total metals in NWP water due to a lower average lake storage under SVWP. The SVWP could result in a greater duration of NWP pumping from the lowest reservoir inlet compared to NWP pumping without the SVWP. This cumulative impact would be mitigated by the proposed mitigation measures, however.

- Significant cumulative noise impacts could occur at the Nacimiento Dam if construction phases at this location were to overlap. These noise impacts however would be mitigated to insignificant levels by implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. Noise from maintenance and other noise producing activities (road repair) could also be mitigated to insignificant levels if were to occur at the same time.
- Cumulative traffic impacts associated with the proposed pipeline construction activities occurring after roadway improvements have been completed on the same roads. Numerous roadway improvement projects could occur simultaneously with the proposed project. In many cases roadway improvements would precede installation of the water pipeline, which would result in potential damage to the newly resurfaced roadway and/or other improvement. To mitigate significant cumulative impacts associated with pipeline construction following roadway improvements, work coordination and communication between various County departments is recommended.

Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126(g) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR assess a project's potential to induce additional economic or population growth or the construction of additional infrastructure or housing beyond that anticipated for the project itself. The Guidelines state that a project will have a significant growth-inducing impact if:

- It directly or indirectly fosters economic or population growth or additional housing; or,
- It removes obstacles to growth; or,
- It taxes community services facilities; or,
- It encourages or facilitates other activities that cause significant environmental effects.

The Guidelines define a growth-inducing impact as:

“the way 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. Included in this are [public works] projects which would remove obstacles to population growth. Growth is not assumed to be necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.”

Findings:

- Approval of the NWP could result in additional growth or rate of growth in areas now subject to water resource constraints. Recently approved/updated General Plans have acknowledged that future growth will have significant, cumulative impacts. In areas where forecasted water supplies exceed future demand, NWP water could be used to foster growth outside existing service area boundaries. Private water companies in areas located outside of Urban Service Lines (USL) or in agriculturally-designated areas would be able to prove a source of water in applying for general plan amendments to change the land use designations to accommodate projects with residential or other uses. Other

impacts requiring mitigation (i.e. schools, roads, air quality), which would result as a consequence of receiving supplemental water supplies are considered secondary or indirect impacts, and depend on how local jurisdictions manage growth.

XI. Findings Regarding Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Alternative Screening Process

A screening approach to the alternatives analysis was developed. This approach meets the legal requirements of CEQA and NEPA; assures that an EIR/EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives; and minimizes the number of alternatives that are carried forward for analysis in the EIR/EIS. This approach also assures that only alternatives that offer some level of environmental advantage over the proposed project are evaluated throughout the EIR/EIS. If an alternative was found to be technically infeasible, then it was dropped from further consideration. This was the primary feasibility factor that was used to eliminate an alternative without further screening analysis.

A wide variety of alternatives for the Nacimiento Water Project were considered in a screening analysis to address potential alternatives to the proposed project, as well as individual project components. Alternatives were considered for the following components of the proposed Nacimiento Water Project:

- No Project Alternative,
- NWP Treated Water Option
- 1997 NWP EIR Project Alignment,
- Combined Raw and Treated Water Alternative,
- Bradley Well Field Options,
- Alternative Camp Roberts Route,
- Lake Nacimiento Reservoir Intake Alternatives,
- Alternative WTP Sites,
- State Water Project,
- Additional Groundwater Pumping,
- Desalination,
- Reclamation, and
- Conservation.

Only the following alternatives have been carried forward and analyzed throughout the EIR, the other alternatives have been dropped from the analysis. The alternatives that have been selected for analysis include:

- No Project Alternative,
- Proposed Project Treated Water Option
- 1997 NWP EIR Project Alignment,
- Phased Raw and Treated Water Alternative.

No Project/No Action Alternative

Description	The No Project/No Action Alternative is required by Section 15126.6(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines. In this case, the No Project/No Action alternative refers to the potential environmental consequences of not providing Nacimiento Water to the purveyors and to allow the purveyors to continue to rely on groundwater.
Finding:	<p>The No Project Alternative describes a water supply situation that acknowledges the Board of Supervisors’ decisions related to obtaining supplemental water from the State Water Project (SWP). However, it does not include assumptions that supplemental water supply projects will be developed when projects are either unfunded, unscheduled, or have not undergone environmental review.</p> <p>Under the No Project Alternative, each project participant would need to evaluate their specific water supply needs and available alternatives, which in many cases are quite divergent amongst the participants. Beyond the continuing over reliance on groundwater resources, it would be speculative to undertake an evaluation of what alternative each participant would pursue in the absence of the NWP. Each of the projects discussed in Section 3.0 of the Final EIR (Alternatives) could serve, at least partially, as an alternative to the proposed project, especially for some project participants, and have been evaluated on their own merit instead of as part of the No Project Alternative.</p> <p>With no action, groundwater overdraft in some portions of San Luis Obispo County is expected to continue to increase, resulting in lowered groundwater levels, deteriorating water quality, potential aquifer subsidence and damage, and increased pumping costs, and increased competition between agricultural interests and domestic users. Supply shortages during drought periods could occur in some communities. The No Project Alternative, therefore, does not meet the project objectives to increase reliability of water supply in the County.</p> <p>Under the No Project Alternative, all of the proposed project significant (Class I) impacts would be eliminated since there would be no construction of the project facilities and water use and distribution would not differ substantially from current conditions. The water purveyors that applied for the Lake Nacimiento water would need to search for other sources of water or rely on the existing sources currently available to them.</p>

Proposed Project Treated Water Option

Description	This alternative would be similar to the proposed NWP Raw Water Option, but would add a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Camp Roberts using the same location as the storage tanks and pump station identified in the analysis of the Raw Water Option.
Finding	<p>This alternative would not avoid or substantially lessen many of the impacts associated with the proposed project, with the exception of the loss of riparian habitat at the three water discharge and percolation facilities that would be located within the Salinas River channel. However, impacts associated with the water discharge facilities have been fully mitigated. In addition, the Treated Water Option would have the potential to impact sensitive aquatic biological species in the event of a pipeline failure and the flow of chlorinated water into nearby riparian areas. This impact was found to be less than significant in the EIR.</p> <p>Since this alternative very similar to the Raw Water Option, the same significant (Class I) impacts associated with the proposed project would occur under this alternative. These impacts include:</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>AQ.1 – Construction activities would generate air emissions that would impact air quality in the area. Air pollutant emissions during pipeline and facility construction would exceed the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District’s significance threshold, even after implementation of all feasible mitigation. This impact would only last during the construction of the project, with air quality impacts during project operations being less than significant.</p> <p>Growth Inducement</p> <p>G.1 – Countywide, the growth inducing impacts of accepting supplemental water supplies from the NWP could be considered significant, adverse and unavoidable. However, locally impacts could vary depending on how project supplies are used by each project participant.</p>

1997 EIR Alternative

CEQA requires the consideration of alternative locations for a project when they provide an opportunity to avoid or lessen one or more significant environmental. The other factors relating to feasibility must also be weighed for these sites (whether it meets overall project objectives, economically feasible, etc.). In addition, the ownership or control of the alternative site is another factor in determining feasibility.

Alternative pipeline routes and locations of the other project facilities are shown in Figure 3-1 of the Final EIR (page 3-11). The routes and locations of the alternative that was analyzed in the EIR are shown in Figure 3-2 (page 3-14).

Description	This alternative was the subject of a previous NWP EIR in 1997 and has been thoroughly evaluated under CEQA. The alternative is designed to take place in two timeframes. The first phase of the NWP 1997 EIR Alternative would include the construction and operation of an intake and pump station at Lake Nacimiento; a construction corridor of approximately 66 miles for water pipelines, two storage tanks and three pump stations;
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	<p>development of water discharge facilities north of the Cuesta Grade; upgrading an existing WTP at the CMC south of the Cuesta Grade; and a limited number of water exchange agreements. The second phase of the project would take place 5–10 years after Phase I. It would include construction of a WTP for Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero; in addition, one or two WTPs would be constructed at the same site to serve both Santa Margarita purveyors.</p>
<p>Finding</p>	<p>The significant (Class I) impacts associated with the proposed project (construction-related air quality and growth inducement) would occur under this alternative as well.</p> <p>In addition, several other significant impacts were identified:</p> <p>Hydrology and Water Quality</p> <p>WQ.10 – For the 1997 EIR Project south side intake location and design, there would be an increased potential for turbidity in discharges from the MCWRA power plant during NWP intake construction. Under the 1997 EIR preferred alternative, the intake was proposed to be tunneled from the south side of the dam, as opposed to the Proposed Project north side tunneling plan. In addition, the lowest level inlet was positioned at 660 feet elevation (10 feet below the current plan) and included a dredged channel leading into the inlet. This would result in an increased potential for turbidity in discharges from the MCWRA power plant during NWP intake construction.</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>N.1 – Construction noise would temporarily increase ambient daytime noise levels along the pipeline route and near the pump station and WTP sites. Short term sound levels would exceed acceptable levels at nearby sensitive receptors during construction of project facilities.</p> <p>Transportation/Circulation</p> <p>T.2 – Pipeline construction would require partial road closures and reduce the number of travel lanes during peak traffic periods for roadways with an LOS of D or worse, resulting in a disruption of traffic flow and/or traffic congestion. This impact would be more severe than in the proposed project due to the proposed route, and especially along Nacimiento Lake Drive.</p> <p>T.3 – Partial street closures would temporarily restrict access to and from private property and adjacent land uses. Limited route alternatives along Nacimiento Lake Drive would result in substantial delays and impede access to private property.</p> <p>T.8 – A pipeline failure could disrupt traffic during repairs. A failure along Nacimiento Lake Drive would result in substantial traffic delays, with no suitable alternative route available.</p> <p>Aesthetics/Visual Resources</p> <p>VR.2 – Visual impacts due to long-term presence of the pump station and water intake structures at Nacimiento Dam adjacent to Nacimiento Lake Drive and Lake Nacimiento Resort.</p>

Phased Treated and Raw Water Alternative

Description	Similar to the NWP 1997 EIR Alternative, this alternative would be constructed in a phased approach, starting out as a raw water project, and upon completion, would be a treated water project.
Finding	<p>This alternative would not avoid or substantially lessen many of the impacts associated with the proposed project, but would spread many of the impacts out over a longer period of time. In addition, seasonally sensitive impacts could be avoided by scheduling construction activities during periods when impacts could be avoided or minimized, such as sensitive species breeding periods, or during rainy periods when erosion and sedimentation impacts would be greatest.</p> <p>Since this alternative is a combination of the co-equal project options of a Raw or Treated Water Project, the same significant (Class I) impacts associated with the proposed project would occur under this alternative. These impacts include:</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>AQ.1 – Construction activities would generate air emissions that would impact air quality in the area. Air pollutant emissions during pipeline and facility construction would exceed the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District’s significance threshold, even after implementation of all feasible mitigation. This impact would only last during the construction of the project, with air quality impacts during project operations being less than significant.</p> <p>Growth Inducement</p> <p>G.1 – Countywide, the growth inducing impacts of accepting supplemental water supplies from the NWP could be considered significant, adverse and unavoidable. However, locally impacts could vary depending on how project supplies are used by each project participant.</p>

Environmentally Superior Alternative

CEQA requires that an EIR identify the environmentally superior alternative from among the range of alternatives considered. Based on the analysis provided above and in the topical sections of the Final EIR, the environmentally superior alternative is the **Raw Water Option of the Proposed Project**.

XII. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code requires that when a public agency is making findings required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1), codified as Section 21081(a) of the Public Resources Code, the public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program

for the changes to the proposed project which it has adopted or made a condition of approval, in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

The City Council hereby finds and accepts that the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Nacimiento Water Project contained in Appendix G of the FEIR meets the requirements of Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code by providing for the implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures intended to mitigate potential environmental effects.