

Exhibit 8

INITIAL STUDY
FOR
CSA 70, ZONE L, WELL #14 PROJECT

Prepared by:

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS
157 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, California 92415-0450

Preparation assistance by:

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March 2000

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**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS
INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
CSA 70, ZONE L, WELL #9C**

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of an Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

PROJECT LABEL:	USGS Quad:	Mescal Creek, 7.5 Minute Series
	Section; T; R:	Section 25, T5N R8W SBM
	Planning Area:	N/A in Los Angeles County
	OLUD:	N/A in Los Angeles County
	Improvement Level:	N/A in Los Angeles County

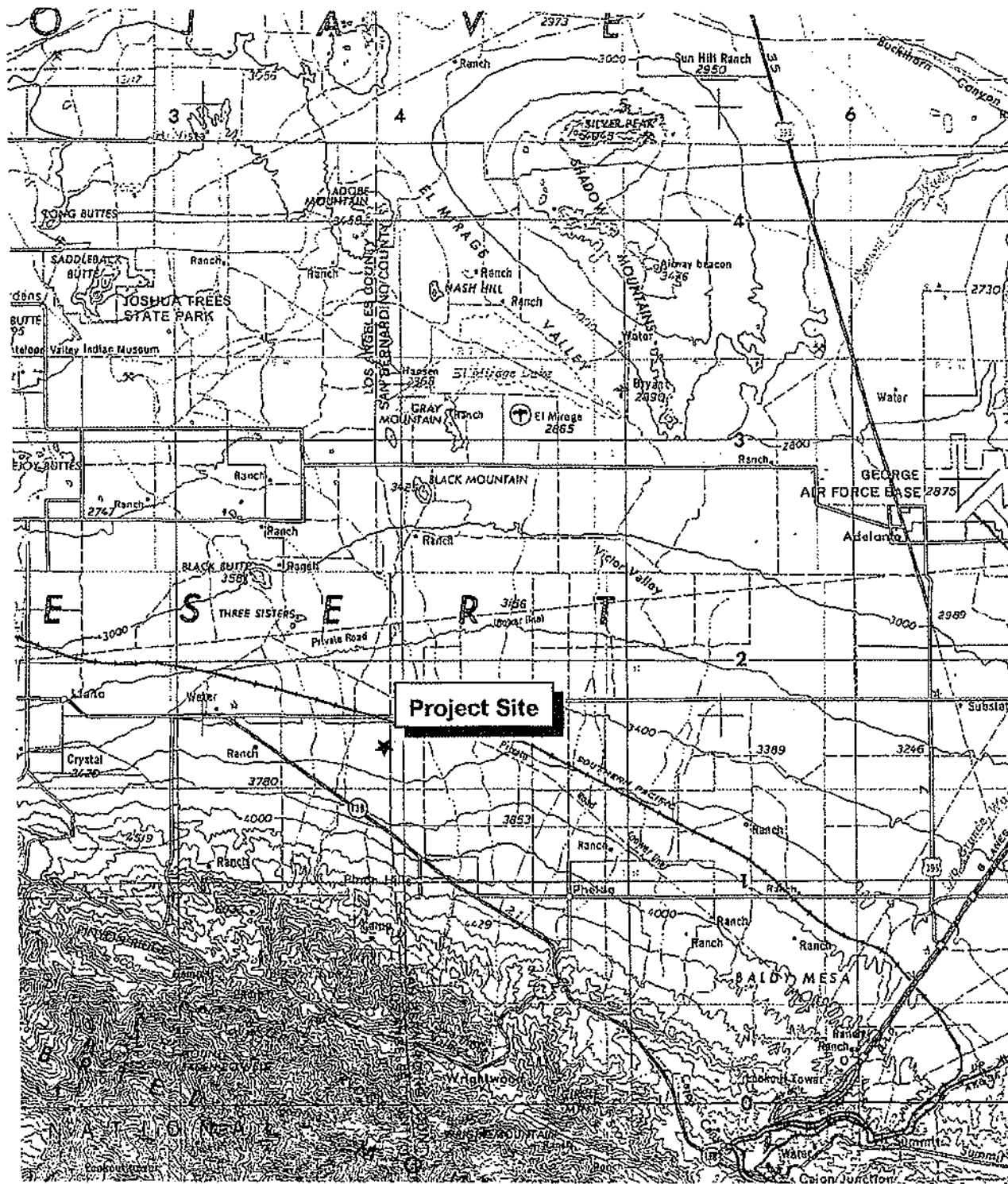
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

1. Project title: CSA 70, Zone L, Well #14
2. Lead agency name and address: San Bernardino County Office of Special Districts
157 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450
3. Contact person and phone number: Mr. Gary Martin
(909) 387-5964
4. Project location: Section 25, T5N, R8W SBM
5. Project sponsor's name and address: San Bernardino County Office of Special Districts
157 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450
6. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary support, or offsite features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The San Bernardino County Office of Special Districts (Special Districts) provides potable water service to customers within County Service Area 70 (CSA 70), Zone L. Zone L encompasses a ± 100 square mile area of the "high desert" which includes portions of the communities of Baldy Mesa and Phelan. Zone L occupies portions of Township 5 North, Range 8 West SBM. Figure 1 shows the regional location of Zone L and the project site.

Presently, Zone L has about 4,200 active metered customers and about 800 inactive metered customers. The Zone L water supply system consists of groundwater extraction wells, water distribution pipelines, booster pump stations, and water storage reservoirs.

The Zone L water production and distribution system includes two existing wells, #10 and #11 and a water booster station (W-10) which are located on County owned property in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 30, Township 5 North, Range 7 West SBM. This 5-acre parcel of land is situated between Pearblossom Highway (State Highway 18) and the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way at the San Bernardino County/Los Angeles County line. Wells #10 and #11 have a combined pumping capacity of 900 gallons per minute (gpm).



REGIONAL LOCATION (Well #14)

Source: USGS – San Bernardino, California
1:250,000 Quadrangle

TOM DODSON & ASSOCIATES
Environmental Consultants

FIGURE 1

Booster station 10 has a pumping capacity of 1,200 gpm. The W-10 facilities supply water to the westerly portion of Zone L.

Special Districts is mandated to provide an adequate supply of water to its customer. To meet the current and anticipated demand for water service, Special District has determined that a new production well is required to supply water to the westerly portion of Zone L. Special Districts has purchased a ± 2.5 -acre parcel located on the northwest corner of 263rd Street and Avenue W-12. This parcel is located about 500 feet northerly of the California Aqueduct in Los Angeles County immediately adjacent to the San Bernardino/Los Angeles County line. See Figures 1 and 2.

Development of the well will include leveling an area of about a 100-foot by 100-foot to accommodate the well and appurtenant equipment. Well drilling equipment will be delivered to the site. Based on available geologic data, it is anticipated the well column will be drilled to a depth of about 1,000 feet below the ground surface (bgs). Bentonite clay or a similar, non-hazardous substance will be used in the drilling operation to secure the walls of the well column to prevent collapse. The drilling activities will occur for about 14 days, 24 hours per day. During drilling activities, noise attenuation curtains will be installed around the drilling operation. Development and equipment of the well will take about 30 days and will occur during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A steel casing will be installed in the column and gravel and sand will be packed between the casing and the sides of the drill hole.

Cuttings from the drilling operation (rock ground by the drill) will be used to surface the pad and/or the adjacent Zone L facilities site. Because no hazardous materials will be used during the well development activities, the cuttings will be non-hazardous and capable of being used or disposed of at a variety of locations.

Water needed for drilling will be supplied from the existing Zone L system using either water trucks or temporary pipelines. Water used for drilling will be decanted onsite and recirculated through the drilling operation. Special Districts estimates that a negligible amount of water will be needed during the drilling operation.

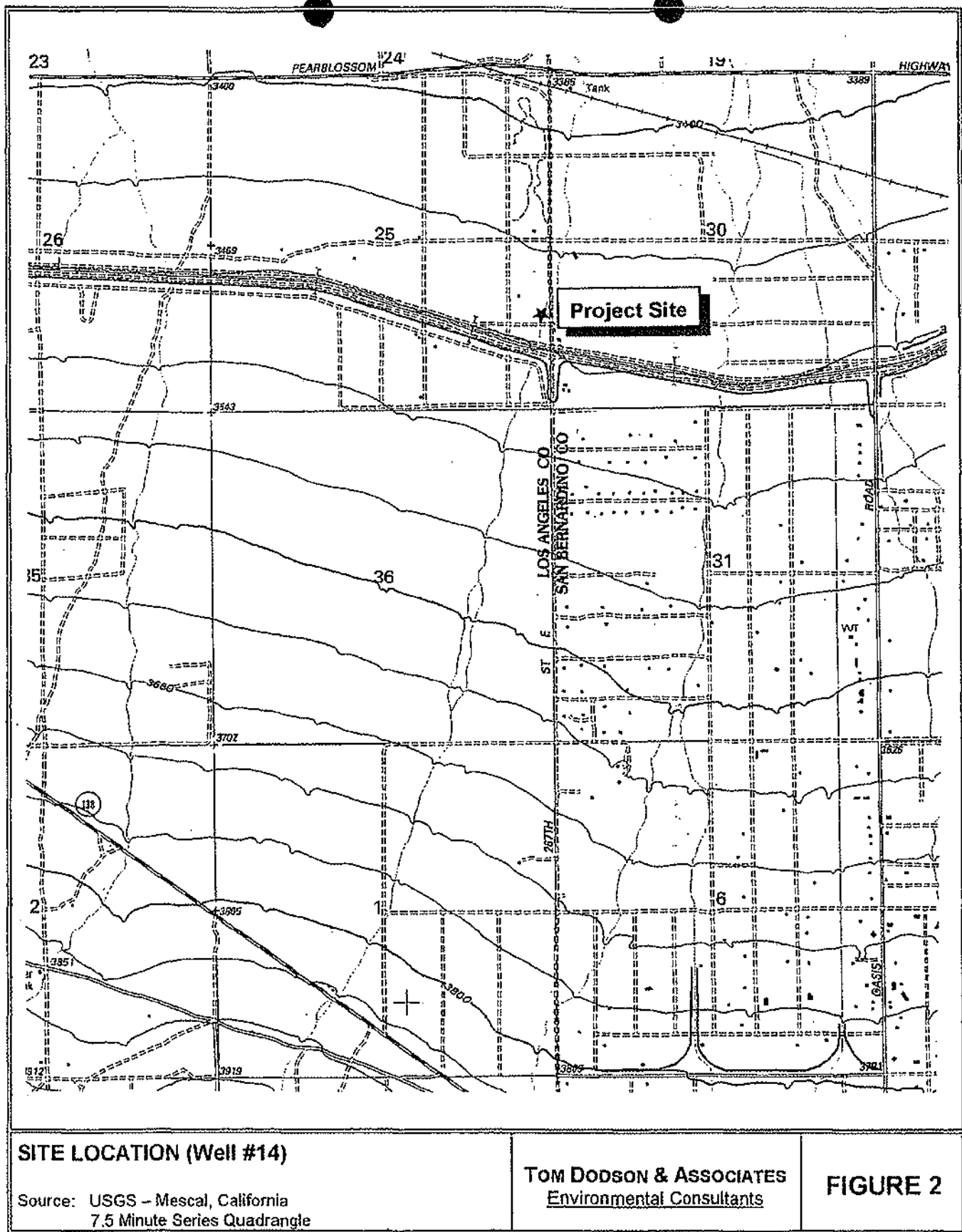
Once the casing, gravel, sand packs, and the sanitary seal are in place, the well pumps and motor will be installed and the well test pumped for at least 72 hours. It is anticipated that about 2 million gallons (MG) of water will be generated from the test pumping and it will be discharged in a temporary, aboveground pipe to an existing drainage swale which traverses the 2.5-acre parcel.

About 4,000 feet of underground pipeline will be installed from the Well #14 site to the existing W-10 water supply facilities. The pipeline will be installed in 263rd Street which connects the Well #14 site to the W-10 facilities.

It is anticipated that a 125 BHP motor will be utilized at the well. Electricity to power the motor will be supplied by Southern California Edison Company which has existing power lines in 263rd Street adjacent to the site. In addition to the well, there may be sodium hypochlorite injection system along with an electrical control cabinet and telemetry equipment installed at the well site. About 30 gallons of the sodium hypochlorite could be stored onsite. This chemical will be stored and used in a manner consistent with applicable regulations including proper containment. The site will be enclosed with fencing for security purposes.

Once installed and operational, Special Districts projects this well will have a capacity to supply about 400 gpm of water into the Zone L supply system.

The Well #14 site is located within a rural area. Vegetation onsite consists primarily of creosote bush scrub habitat with some Joshua tree and Juniper woodland habitat. The nearest residence is located about



600 feet northerly of the site. Access to the site is provided by 263rd Street, which adjoins the site on the east. While the project site is located within Los Angeles County, the San Bernardino County Office of Special Districts will act as Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance portion of this project.

Section 15051(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines states "If the project will be carried out by a public agency, that public agency shall be the Lead Agency even if the project would be located within the jurisdiction of another public agency." The decision making body for Special District's is the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors (Board).

Funds to construct these facilities will be provided from user fees and the reserve fund. Implementation of this project will require the Board to approve the expenditure of the funds to construct the proposed water improvements. While this approval will not result in any direct effects on the physical environment, it will provide the mechanism for the construction activities that could cause physical change to the environment. Such a decision by the Board is discretionary and considered a "project" under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). As such, the Board must consider the potential impacts to the environment from approving and implementing this project and comply with the requirements of CEQA to make a determination on the significance of the potential impacts. The first step in this evaluation is the preparation of an Initial Study. This document will focus on those activities and components of the project that can cause physical change to the existing environment if the Board approves the project and authorizes the necessary funding.

Environmental / Existing Site Conditions

	Existing Land Use	Office Land Use District	IL
North	Vacant (LA County)	A-1-1	N/A
South	Vacant (LA County)	A-1-1	N/A
East	Vacant (San Bernardino County)	PH / CS PH / IC	3
West	Vacant (LA County)	A-1-1	N/A

This concludes the project description. If the Board makes the above approvals, the project will be implemented as outlined above. The remainder of this Initial Study consists of the most recent County of San Bernardino Environmental Checklist Form and the substantiation required to support the conclusions presented in this Form. Based on the findings and conclusions of this Initial Study, the Board has made a preliminary determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate CEQA determination for this project. A final environmental determination will be made following the close of a 30-day comment period. Any comments received on the Initial Study will be reviewed and considered when the Board makes the environmental determination. The Board will make a final decision regarding the appropriate environmental determination for this proposed project according to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines prior to making a decision on the proposed project. The Environmental Checklist follows.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture Resources | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Geology / Soils |
| ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials | ☐ Hydrology / Water Quality | ☐ Land Use / Planning |
| ☐ Mineral Resources | ☐ Noise | ☐ Population / Housing |
| ☐ Public Services | ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation / Traffic |
| ☐ Utilities / Service Systems | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

- ☐ The proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because adequate mitigation has been provided to reduce potential impacts to a level of non-significance. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ The proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- ☐ The proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it may analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature (prepared by)
Tom Dodson & Associates

Date

Signature
Office of Special Districts

Date

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

SUBSTANTIATION (check ___ if project is located within the viewshed of any Scenic Route listed in the General Plan):

- a&c. Well #14 will be developed on a relatively flat parcel in a rural area that contains sparsely scattered residences. No hills or ridgelines are located on or near the project site. The surrounding area consists of creosote bush scrub habitat with Joshua trees. The creosote bush ranges in height from about 3 to 5 feet. The Joshua trees are 10 to 15 feet high.

The well and any housing structures will not exceed a height of about one story and due to the height of the surrounding vegetation will only be visible from the immediate area and will not alter the existing visual setting.

Based on the above, it is concluded this project has no potential to cause a substantial effect on a scenic vista or substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the site and surrounding area.

To reduce potential impacts to less than significant, the following measure shall be implemented:

I-1 All aboveground structures shall be covered with neutral, non-reflective coatings that blend with surrounding uses and color schemes.

- b. This project will not result in damage to any scenic resources. The site is vacant and no rock outcropping or historic buildings exist on the project site. This site is not located adjacent to a state scenic highway corridor. The project site does contain Joshua trees. To mitigate potential impacts to these trees, and to create a less than significant overall impact, the following measure shall be implemented to comply with the County's Development Code Section 89.0401 – 89.0435.

I-2 Special Districts shall select a well site and pipe alignment that avoids disturbance of the Joshua trees onsite. If it is not possible avoid disturbance of a tree or trees. Special Districts shall retain a qualified arborist to evaluate the potential of relocating any affected tree(s). The recommendations of the arborist shall be implemented by Special Districts.

- d. No exterior lighting will be associated with this project. Implementation of Mitigation Measure I-1 above is judged adequate to mitigate any potential impacts associated with glare. No impact can be identified and no mitigation required.

References

County of San Bernardino Development Code

County of San Bernardino General Plan

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION (check ___ if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):

- a. The soils onsite are designated Wasco sandy loam by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area (SCS). According to the SCS, the Wasco series has an agricultural capability unit of VIIe-1(30) non-irrigated. Data provided on page 77 of the SCS identifies Class VII soils as having very severe limitations that make it unsuitable for cultivation. Wasco series soils are considered prime farmland when irrigated. Based on the presence of native vegetation and the lack of an irrigation system onsite or in the immediate area, it is evident that this site has not been used for agricultural purposes. The USGS – Mescal Creek, 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle (topographic) map shows no indication of past agricultural activities or irrigation systems. It is therefore concluded this project will not result in the conversion of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses.

- b. The project site is not within an area zoned for agricultural uses nor within an area under a Williamson Act contract.

It should be noted that this project involves water supply facilities that are exempt from zoning restrictions (California Government Code Section 53091). As such, by code this project has no potential to conflict with existing zoning or land uses.

- c. It is the Special Districts' mandate to provide an adequate supply of water to customers within its service area. The provision of water to an area may have some potential to induce development which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Such development, however, can not occur unless it is consistent with zoning and General Plan land use designations.

Land uses and densities in the area served by Zone L are controlled by zoning and land use designations established by the County of San Bernardino. Before non-agricultural development can occur on agricultural land, the County must provide the proper zoning and land use designation to accommodate such development. Therefore, Special Districts only provides an adequate water supply to development allowed by the County's planning documents and cannot result in the conversion of farmlands to other uses.

References

County of San Bernardino General Plan

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION (discuss conformity with the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan, if applicable):

Environmental Setting

The project site is located within the boundaries of the former Southeast Desert Air Basin (SEDAB). On May 30, 1996, the California Air Resources Control Board approved the creation of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) which resulted in the division of the former SEDAB into two new air basins. The MDAB includes the former SEDAB portions of Kern and Los Angeles counties and all of the areas under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD or District). The MDAQMD is responsible for air quality management within the MDAB, including the project area. The former SEDAB is not in attainment for ozone and particulates (PM₁₀) within San Bernardino County.

The District is mandated to achieve and maintain ambient air quality standards by the earliest practicable date. The California Health and Safety Code [Section 40911(a)] requires that districts designated non-attainment for any of the criteria pollutants to submit plans for attaining and maintaining the air quality standards. To meet this requirement, the MDAQMD adopted its Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP) to control and mitigate locally generated ozone pollution.

Ozone is formed in the atmosphere when oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) combine with reactive organic gases (ROG) in the presence of sunlight. The control of ozone generation is therefore dependent on controlling or reducing the emission of the precursor pollutants ROG and NO_x . The reduction in locally generated pollution will allow the District to avoid locally generated exceedances of the ozone standards and meet its mandated responsibility to control and mitigate ozone pollution. A secondary benefit from ozone attainment is that certain control strategies will also reduce PM_{10} emissions.

The MDAQMD operates an air quality monitoring station for ozone in Phelan. The Phelan station does not monitor PM_{10} . Data obtained from the District reveals the following regarding the exceedance of ozone standards in Phelan.

1995-1998 OZONE THRESHOLD EXCEEDANCE		
Year	Days Exceeding State Standard	Days Exceeding Federal Standards
1995	53	7
1996	67	27
1997	70	13
1998	61	17

The MDAQMD has also adopted a Federal Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) Attainment Plan (PM_{10} Attainment Plan). The PM_{10} Plan describes the methods the District will implement to bring the region into compliance by reducing PM_{10} pollution. The following PM_{10} monitoring data was obtained from the District's Hesperia station which is the closest to the project site.

1995-1998 PM_{10} THRESHOLD EXCEEDANCE		
Year	Days Exceeding State Standard	Days Exceeding Federal Standards
1995	6	0
1996	4	0
1997	1	0
1998	3	0

The MDAQMD has not adopted official thresholds to determine the significance of pollutant emissions from projects. Unofficially, the MDAQMD uses its offset threshold amounts identified in Rule 1307 of Regulation XIII, New Source Review of its Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP). These thresholds, which are expressed in tons of pollutants per year (tpy), will be utilized in this document to evaluate the significance of potential project-related emissions.

RULE 1307: THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	100 tpy
Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC)	25 tpy
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	25 tpy
Oxides of Sulfur (SO _x)	25 tpy
PM ₁₀	15 tpy
Lead	0.6 tpy
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	10 tpy

The AQAP strategies to control ozone are directed at permanent, long-term emissions of NO_x and ROC. Therefore, the plan has no specific strategies or controls, other than the above thresholds and general vehicle emission controls which are directed toward short-term construction emissions of NO_x and ROC.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has published its CEQA Air Quality Handbook (CEQA Handbook) to assist agencies and individuals in calculating the potential air emissions associated with a project. The thresholds of significance of emission in the SCAQMD are substantially lower than in the MDAQMD and therefore more restrictive. If a project's emissions are below SCAQMD's thresholds, they will be below the MDAQMD's thresholds.

- Project Impacts**
- a-c. Chapter 6 of the CEQA Handbook provides screening tables to assist in determining the significance of impacts associated with proposed projects. Table 6-3 identifies grading operations that disturb less than 177 acres per quarter year or 3 acres per day as not potentially causing significant air quality impacts. Potentially about 0.25 acres will be leveled at the well site. Based on data provided on Table 6-3, it is concluded this project has no potential to result in significant air quality impacts from site preparation.

The pipeline connecting the Well #14 to the reservoir will be about 4,000 feet long and take one or two days to install. It will require a trencher and possibly a small dozer to excavate and backfill the trench. Based on the few pieces of equipment and the short construction period, it is concluded that installation of the pipeline has no potential to exceed MDAQMD emission thresholds.

It is projected that well drilling will be ongoing for about 24 hours per day for about 2 weeks and based on data provided in Table A9-8-A of the CEQA Handbook will result in the following emissions:

	<u>Daily Emissions</u>	<u>Total Emissions</u>
CO	16 lbs/day	224 lbs
ROC	4 lbs/day	56 lbs
NO _x	41 lbs/day	574 lbs
SO _x	4 lbs/day	42 lbs
PM ₁₀	3 lbs/day	

The above construction-related emissions are substantially below the MDAQMD's significance thresholds without mitigation and are therefore judged to be non-significant. To mitigate potential impacts to the greatest extent feasible, the following measures shall be implemented.

- III-1 Special Districts shall require the contractor(s) to apply water to disturbed portions of the project site if dust is observed migrating from the site during construction activities.**

III-2 The contract with the construction contractor(s) shall require the contractor(s) to provide verification that all equipment is in proper tune per the manufacturer's recommendation.

Other potential short-term sources of emissions are the delivery of well materials, mechanical equipment, pipe, and workers commuting to the sites. Based on the few number of workers required (less than 10) and the anticipated short-vehicle trips associated with worker commutes and material deliveries, it is concluded these potential short-term impacts do not exceed the MDAQMD's thresholds of significance for emissions.

Once the wells are operational, they will be powered by electricity supplied by Southern California Edison Company (SCE). Special Districts anticipates the pump motor will be 125 BHP. Due to the small size and of the pump motor and because this is partially a well replacement project, the long-term emissions associated with SCE generating the small amount of electricity needed to operate this equipment is considered less than significant.

- d. The only pollutant associated with development and operation of the proposed well are those generated as emissions by the construction equipment and petroleum products used by the equipment. The emissions are below the MDAQMD's threshold of significance. Due to the few pieces of construction equipment required at any given time, the small amount of petroleum products consumed, it is concluded this project has no potential to expose receptors to a significant amount of pollutants. Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required. Mitigation Measure III-2 is judged adequate to reduce potential impacts to a level that is less than significant.
- e. The only odors which will be generated by this project will be those from the construction and well drilling equipment. These odors will be associated with exhaust emissions from the consumption of petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, etc.). Due to the few pieces of equipment required, the short duration of construction and the few number of potential receptors in the project area, it is concluded this project will not result in the creation of a significant amount of objectionable odors. No mitigation is required.

References

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Air Quality Data Summaries
South Coast Air Quality Management District, CEQA Air Quality Handbook

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION (check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay ____ or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database ____):

a&e. The project site is located within the known range of two sensitive animal species – the Mojave ground squirrel (MGS) and the desert tortoise. Data provided in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) map Mojave Ground Squirrel Range, West Mojave Plan (West Mojave Plan) indicates the project site is near or within the historic range of the MGS. The project site is not within designated Critical Habitat of the desert tortoise as identified in the Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan. The BLM designates the project site as being within Class 3 desert tortoise habitat per the BLM's California Desert Conservation Map (1999). Class 3 habitat is not considered good quality habitat for desert tortoise.

To evaluate the potential for impact to biological resources from implementing this project, a General Biological and Focused Desert Tortoise Survey (Biological Survey) was performed by Tom Dodson & Associates (TDA). The results of that survey are provided at this time. A copy of the Biological Survey report is available at the Office of Special Districts.

The project site contains a somewhat disturbed creosote bush scrub habitat with some Joshua tree woodland. The primary species onsite are burrobush, Mormon tea, Joshua trees, and some cactus species.

The quality of habitat onsite is relatively good, but land around the site has been disturbed by ongoing human activity. The site is adjoined on the east and south by graded dirt roads that are utilized by vehicles. The California Aqueduct is located a few hundred feet southerly of the site.

- **Desert Tortoise** – A focused desert tortoise survey was performed on the project site and zone of influence following the protocol of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The results of that survey were that no tortoise or sign of tortoise (borrows, scat, etc.) were found on the project site or within the zone of influence.

To mitigate the potential for take of a desert tortoise to the greatest extent feasible, the following measures shall be implemented.

IV-1 Prior to any land disturbance activities, Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to delineate the allowed limits of construction disturbance.

IV-2 Prior to any land disturbance activities, Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to select the type of desert tortoise exclusion fencing and identify the method of installing the fencing at the construction site. The fencing shall be installed prior to the start of land disturbance activities.

IV-3 Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to be present onsite installation of the desert tortoise exclusion fencing to ensure its proper installation and location. The biologist shall survey the area being fenced prior to fence installation to verify no desert tortoise are present or to properly relocate any tortoise encountered. The tortoise exclusion fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities.

- **Mojave Ground Squirrel** – The project site is located near the southerly boundary of the historic range of the MGS (West Mojave Plan). Informal consultation regarding MGS was held with Ms. Becky Jones of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Based on the small size of the site (less than ½ acre), the degree of human activity (roads, aqueduct, residences), the site's location on the boundary of the historic range of the MGS and the presence of Beechy ground squirrel in the project area, Ms. Jones concluded it is unlikely this project will result in the take of MGS. No further studies were recommended and consultation under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code is not required.
- **Native Plants** – Joshua trees and some cactus species occur on the project site. However, adequate area exists on the site to develop the well and appurtenant equipment without affecting these native plants. Because the exact location of these facilities has not been determined at this time, it is not possible to determine if any protected native plant species as identified in Section 89.0420 of the County Government Code will be affected (smoketrees, mesquites, century plants, nollins, yuccas, creosote rings and Joshua trees).

To mitigate the potential for impact to protected Joshua trees, the following measure shall be implemented:

IV-4 Special Districts shall make every feasible effort to avoid the disturbance of Joshua trees or other protected native plants in selecting the location of the proposed water facilities. If Joshua trees or other protected native plants cannot be avoided, the Special Districts shall secure and implement the terms of a Desert Native Plant Harvesting Permit issued by the County of San Bernardino in compliance with County Government Code Section 89.0401 – 89.0435.

- b. The project site is traversed by a small natural drainage swale. The swale is shown on the USGS – Mescal Creek, California Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series (topographic) map. As with most such drainage swales in the desert, it is dry most of the time and only carries flows during periods of heavy precipitation. No riparian or other sensitive community occurs within or along the drainage swale.

Based on a field evaluation during the biological survey, it is concluded that the swale qualifies as a streambed and any disturbance or alteration of the channel would be subject to Section 1600 of the California Department of Fish and Game Code. The channel may also be considered jurisdictional "Waters of the United States" per Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

Special Districts should make every feasible effort to avoid disturbance, filling or alteration of that channel. If that is not feasible, Special Districts shall implement the following measure.

IV-5 Prior to disturbance or alteration of the existing drainage swale onsite, Special Districts shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if any permits or agreements are required for such activities. Special Districts shall comply with the terms and conditions of any permits or agreements.

- c. Based on data obtained during the field survey, it is concluded that no wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act occur onsite.
- d. The project site is located within a sparsely developed area. This project will result in the conversion of less than one-half acre of native habitat into a water production facility. Due to the relatively small area of development in relation to the large undeveloped adjacent areas, it is concluded this project will not interfere substantially with the movement or migration of wildlife or impede the use of any known wildlife nursery sites.

Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.

- f. The project site and surrounding areas are designated for various types of residential and commercial development. No Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans are known to exist on or near the site.

No impact can be identified and no mitigation required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION (check if the project is located in the Cultural ____ or Paleontologic ____ Resources overlays or cite results of cultural resource review):

- a-b. This project will result in the disturbance of about one-half acre of land through land leveling, pipeline trenching and well drilling activities. The well site is a relatively undisturbed parcel of land while the pipeline will be installed within an existing graded and traveled roadway (263rd Street). While installation of the pipeline in 263rd Street has no potential to disturbed surface cultural resources, some potential to affect such resources exists at the well site. To evaluate this projects potential to impact such resources the archaeological/historical resources consulting firm of CRM Tech was retained to perform a records search and field survey of the area of potential effect (APE). The results of that investigation is contained in the Historical/Archaeological Resources Report, Proposed Well Site #14, CSA 70, Zone L (CRM Tech Report). The CRM Tech investigation concluded that no historical resources were identified on or adjacent to the site during either the records search or the field investigation. It is CRM Tech's recommendation that no further cultural resources investigations of the APE is warranted. A copy of the CRM Tech report is available at the Office of Special Districts.

It is possible that subsurface or buried resources could exist at the well site or along the pipeline alignment. To mitigate the potential for impact to cultural resources to the greatest extent feasible, the following measure shall be implemented.

V-1 In the unlikely event cultural resources are encountered during construction of these water facilities, activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act and/or the Federal National Policy Act.

- c. The soils onsite are formed from recent alluvium derived from granitic material. Such soils are not considered fossiliferous and the potential for paleontologic resources occurring onsite are considered to be low. Additionally, due to the small size of the project and the lack of land significant disturbances proposed, it is concluded this project will not result in the destruction of a unique paleontologic resource. No unique geologic features are known or suspected to occur on or beneath the site. To

mitigate any potential for impact to paleontologic resources to the greatest extent feasible, the following measure shall be implemented. No impact is expected.

V-2 *In the unlikely event paleontologic resources are encountered during construction of these water facilities, activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures.*

- d. No available data suggests that human remains may occur on the project site and the potential for such an occurrence is considered low. To mitigate potential impacts to the greatest extent feasible, the following measure shall be implemented. No impact is expected.

V-3 *If human remains are encountered on the property, then the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office must be contacted within 24 hours of the find, and all work should be halted until a clearance is given by that office and any other involved agencies. Contact the County Coroner at 175 South Lena Road, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0037 or (909) 387-2543.*

Reference

CRM Tech, Historical/Archaeological Resources Report, Proposed Well Site No. 14, CSA 70, Zone L

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
• Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Strong seismic groundshaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION (check ☐ if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District):

- a. This project does not propose the development of any human occupancy structures or above ground water storage facilities. The project site will be closed to the public and Zone L maintenance personnel will only be present onsite a few times a week for short periods of time.

According to data provided on the State Division of Mines and Geology Regional Geologic Map Series, San Bernardino Quadrangle, Map 3A (Geology), the project site is not located on or near a suspected active fault.

The project site is located within a seismically active area as is most of southern California. Because no above ground or human occupancy structures are proposed, it is concluded this project has no potential to expose people or property to the adverse effects of strong seismic groundshaking.

The static groundwater level in area wells is about 440 feet below ground surface (bgs) (Mr. Gary Martin, Special Districts). Due to the depth of groundwater and the lack of any above ground or human occupancy structures onsite, it is concluded this project has no potential to result in the exposure of people or property to seismic ground failure including liquefaction.

The project site and surrounding area are relatively flat (less than 5% slope). No hills, cliffs or earthen cuts exist or are proposed. As such, it is concluded this project has no potential to expose people or property to landslides.

Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.

- b. The project site will require some leveling to create a flat pad (100' x 100') to accommodate the well equipment. All the soil disturbed during grading will be utilized onsite. Once the water facilities are installed, leveled areas will be surfaced with either gravel or cuttings from the well.

Due to the small size of the site and surfacing proposed, the potential to cause substantial soil erosion is considered non-significant. To mitigate potential impacts to the greatest extent feasible, the following measure shall be implemented:

VI-1 The District shall design and construct the site in a manner adequate to convey storm flows around or off the site without causing substantial soil erosion both during construction and after site development.

- c. According to the SCS, the Wasco sandy loam soils onsite present no severe engineering limitations. Based on the above, it is concluded this project has no potential to create unstable earth conditions.
- d. According to the SCS, the Wasco series soils have a low shrink-swell potential and no impact associated with expensive soils can be identified.
- e. No onsite disposal facilities are proposed by this project.

References

State of California, Division of Mines and Geology Regional Geologic Map Series, San Bernardino Quadrangle, Map 3A (Geology)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a. Other than some petroleum products used during construction, this project will not include the use or storage of explosive substances. Operation of the well will include the use of sodium hyperchlorite to ensure the water extracted meets domestic water standards. This chemical is listed by Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) guidelines as a hazardous substance. This chemical is similar to household bleach and will be stored in small quantities (about 30 gallons) and is not explosive. The storage of this chemical is regulated by Federal, State, and local regulations that have been determined to be adequate to prevent or control accidental release. As such, it is concluded the potential for this project to result in the accidental release of materials, explosion, or create a health hazard is less than significant. No further mitigation other than that required by current regulations is required.

- b. Due to the small quantities of sodium hypochlorite to be used on site, the regulations regarding its use and storage and the lack of nearby human habitation, the potential impact of the use of this chemical onsite is considered to be less than significant. Compliance with applicable regulations for the use and storage of sodium hyperchlorite is considered adequate mitigation.
- c. There are no schools located within a quarter-mile radius of the proposed project site. No impact can be identified.
- d. The Well #14 site is not included on the latest CAL/EPA Facility Inventory Data Base Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites List summarized by San Bernardino County Planning Department.

Review of available data (site appearance, USGS map, and CAL/EPA Hazardous Site list) indicates no past uses that may have involved hazardous materials. The landform appears to be essentially natural with some disturbances to native vegetation from human activities. This project will only result in the installation and operation of a water well and pipeline. The site will be fenced and closed to the public.

Water extracted from the well must be tested regularly and be of adequate quality to meet existing health standards. Based on the above, it is concluded this project will not expose people to any existing sources of potential health hazards. No mitigation is required.

- e. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan area or near a public airstrip.
- f. The project site is not located near a private airstrip.
- g. The project site is located outside dedicated public and private roadways. The site will not be used by the public and no known emergency response or evacuation plans exist which could be affected by this project. Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.
- h. The project site will not be open to the public. The project does not include the use of flammable or explosive materials. The project site is within a rural area but does not include the use of any substances that could result in the exposure of people or property to wildland fires. It should be noted that this project will increase the area's water supply capabilities and is viewed as a benefit to fire protection.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a&f. This project proposes the development of a domestic water well. No wastewater will be generated or discharged by the facilities. No contaminants which could affect surface water quality will be associated with the project. The only chemical which will be stored or used onsite will be sodium hypochlorite to treat the water extracted from the wells. This chemical which is listed by Federal and State guidelines as a hazardous material, is about 5-percent chlorine and is similar to household bleach. Only about 30 gallons of this chemical will be present onsite at any given time. The storage and use of this chemical is controlled by regulations deemed adequate by the agencies responsible for controlling such substances.

The project will not require the issuance of waste discharge requirements. A less than significant impact is indicated. Other than compliance with applicable regulations, no further mitigation is required.

- b. The project site is located within Los Angeles County. The project site is not within the service area of any known water purveyor or water district. The site is outside the boundary of the Mojave Water Agency and is not located within an area whose groundwater resource has been adjudicated. It should be noted that this well is located on the westerly edge of the portion of the Oeste subbasin of the Mojave River Basin as identified on Figure 2 of the Mojave Water Agency's Regional Water Management Plan.

The pumping of groundwater from this aquifer will have some unquantifiable effect on the volume of groundwater in storage. This portion of the basin has not been adjudicated and the Office of Special District is entitled to extract groundwater from beneath its property. Because no significant impact to the availability of groundwater can be identified, no mitigation is provided.

- c-e. The proposed well site will occupy a 100' x 100' site that will be leveled. The well will not be located within an identified 100-year floodplain or an established drainage course. The well site and adjacent area discharge stormwater to an existing natural drainage swale which traverses the project site. This project does not propose to alter that swale and due to the small size of the land affected and the lack of land surfacing on the site, will not noticeably increase runoff from the site.

Based on the above, it is concluded this project has a less than significant potential to alter the areas existing drainage pattern or substantially increase surface water runoff.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure VI-1 is judged adequate to mitigate potential impacts associated with the erosion of soil.

- g&h. This project does not propose any housing and is not situated within a 100-year flood hazard area. As such it has no potential to place housing at risk to flooding or impede the flow of stormwater. No impact can be identified and no mitigation required.
- i. The site is not located in a high flood hazard area. It is not located near a dam or levee. No human occupancy structures are proposed. No impact can be identified and no mitigation is required.
- j. The project site is not situated near a large waterbody that has a potential to generate a tsunami or seiche. No areas exist around or near the site that could generate substantial mudflow. No impact, can be identified and no mitigation is required.

References

Program EIR for the Mojave Water Agency, Regional Water Management Plan, Jones & Stokes Associates

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

- The proposed well will be constructed on a County owned parcel of land in a rural area. Due to the small size of the project (about 0.50 acre) and the sparse development in the area, it is concluded this project has no potential to divide an existing community. No impact identified and no mitigation is required.
- As stated in Section II of this document, water supply facilities are exempt from zoning restrictions by California Government Code 53091. As such, they are judged to be compatible with all urban and rural land uses. No impact can be identified and no mitigation is required.
- According to the County of Los Angeles' Planning Department, the project site is designated Non-urban (A-1-1). This is a light agricultural land use which is not compatible with habitat or natural community conservation plans. No such plans are known to exist in the project area.

References

County of Los Angeles, Office of Planning

County of San Bernardino Land Use Designation Panel Maps

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION (check ___ if project is located within the Mineral Resources Zone Overlay):

- a. According to data in the SCS, the Wasco series material found on the project site are improbable for use as sand or gravel products. The project area is not within a known Mineral Resource Zone.

Based on the type of soils onsite, the small size of the project site and the amount of Wasco soils available in the project area, it is concluded this project has no potential to result in a significant loss of availability of a valuable mineral resource. No impact is identified and no mitigation is required.

- b. The project site is designated for non-urban development by the County of Los Angeles, not mineral production. No impact to mineral resources can be identified and no mitigation is required.

References

County of Los Angeles Planning Department

County of San Bernardino General Plan

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION (check if the project is located in the Noise Hazard Overlay District ___ or is subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element ___):

- a. Development and operation of the well has some potential to generate noise. In the short term, well drilling and pipeline trenching activities will generate noise. In the long term, the mechanical equipment at the well site will generate noise. The project site is presently somewhat remote, however, a residence is located about 600 feet from the proposed well. Generally, well drilling and pipe installation activities can generate noise levels of about 75 dBA at a distance of 50 feet from the equipment. A-weighted decibels (dBA) approximate the response to the human ear of a broad frequency noise source by discriminating against the very low and high frequencies of the audible spectrum. A-weighted decibels reflect those which are audible to the human ear.

Equivalent sound levels are not measured directly but rather calculated from sound pressure levels typically measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA). The equivalent sound level (Leq) is the constant levels that, over a given time period, transmits the same amount of acoustic energy as the actual time-varying sound. Equivalent sound levels are the basis for both the Ldn and CNEL scales.

Day-night average sound levels are a measure of the cumulative noise exposure of the community. The Ldn value results from a summation of hourly Leq's over a 24-hour time period with an increased weighting factor applied to the nighttime period between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. This noise rating scheme takes into account those subjectively more annoying noise events which occur during the normal sleeping hours.

Noise diminishes at a rate of about 6 dB for each doubling of the distance from the source. This means that construction noise levels at the nearest receptor (residence located about 600 feet from the proposed well site) will be about 54 dBA on the exterior of the closest receptor. This is below the County's noise standard of 65 dBA at the exterior of residences.

Well drilling activities will be continuous 24-hours per day for about 14 days. To mitigate potential impacts from noise at sensitive receptors, the following measures shall be implemented:

XI-1 Special Districts shall require that noise attenuation curtains be utilized during well drilling activities.

XI-2 Special Districts shall require that non-well drilling construction activities be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

XI-3 Special Districts shall respond to any noise complaints received for this project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn to 65 dBA exterior or an Ldn of 45 dBA interior at the receptor, Special Districts shall implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible.

Implementation of these measures is judged to be adequate to mitigate potential short-term construction noise impacts to a non-significant level.

- b. Due to the distance from the project site to the nearest receptors (about 600 feet) and the type of construction proposed, it is concluded the drilling of the well and installation of the pipeline will not expose people to extensive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.
- c. In the long term, mechanical equipment at the well sites will generate some noise. This equipment produces noise levels that are substantially less than the construction equipment. Based on Special Districts' knowledge of noise levels at other well sites, it is forecast that noise levels at the exterior of

the nearest receptor will be well below 65 dBA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure XI-3 is judged adequate to mitigate any potential long-term noise impacts to less than significant levels.

- d. As outlined in section (a.) this project will have a temporary impact on ambient noise levels during the construction phase. The mitigation measures set forth in that section would be adequate to reduce the level of impact to less than significant.
- e. The project site is not within an airport land use plan area nor near a public airstrip.
- f. The project site is not near a private airstrip.

Reference

County of San Bernardino General Plan

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

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a-c. This project does not propose the development of any new housing. The project site is vacant and existing housing will not be affected by this project. As discussed in Section IIc of this document, Special Districts is mandated to provide an adequate supply of water to customers. The type and density of development in the Zone L service area is controlled by land use designations established by the agencies having jurisdiction over such issues (cities and county). As such, this project is considered growth-accommodating not growth-inducing in that it will help provide water service to development that is approved or allowed by the agencies having jurisdiction over land use issues. Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES -- Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a. The proposed project is viewed as a benefit to public services in that it will help maintain an adequate water supply in the Zone L service area. This is a particular benefit to fire protection services.
- b. The proposed project is not the kind of use that will likely attract criminal activity. No increased need for police services in the area as a result of this project is forecast to occur.
- c-d. The proposed project will not generate new jobs or attract new residents to the area. No negative impacts on nearby schools or parks can be identified.
- e. The proposed project would have no other known impacts on any other public facilities.

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

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a. As discussed in Section II and VI of this document, this project will not contribute to an increase in the population of the area beyond that already allowed or planned for within the Zone L service area. Therefore there would be no increase in the need for parks and other recreational facilities associated with this project.
- b. The project does not propose any new development or expansion of recreational facilities. Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project:				
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

a,b,
&f. This project does not propose any new roads or the reconstruction of any existing roadways. In the short term, construction of the proposed facilities will result in the generation of up to about 20 additional vehicle trips on the adjacent roadways by construction personnel and the delivery of construction materials. This increase in traffic will be for a few weeks and is not considered sufficient to affect the level of service of roadways or congestion at any intersection. This will generate a less than significant impact.

Once constructed and operating, the only traffic that will be generated by this project will be occasional visits to the site by Special Districts personnel to inspect and maintain the facilities. These activities will result in one or two additional trips on any given day. This will not exceed the service standard for any roads in the area, and thus will cause a less than significant impact. Adequate parking area has been provided at the well site to accommodate the parking requirements.

c. No airports are located near the project site. These facilities will not generate an increase in air traffic volumes or affect air traffic patterns. Because no impact can be identified, no mitigation is required.

- d. The proposed project will not result in the construction of any new roads or alter any existing roadways. Installation of the pipeline in 263rd Street could result in short-term traffic hazards during construction. To mitigate potential impacts to the greatest extent feasible, the following measure shall be implemented:

XV-1 Special Districts shall require the construction contractor to submit and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that identifies the traffic control methods that will be implemented during construction to reduce the risks of hazardous conditions to vehicles during construction. The TMP shall include the use of signage or other traffic control measures deemed appropriate by Special Districts, such as restricting the time when trenches may be left open. The TMP shall also identify the methods that will be implemented to return the roadway to as near its pre-project condition as feasible.

- e. The project design includes direct access to public roadways which is considered adequate for emergency purposes.
- g. The construction and operation of water wells and reservoirs has no potential to impact alternative transportation policies.

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

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a-g. The proposed project is a water service improvement. It will not directly generate wastewater. It will, however, provide water service to development that will generate wastewater. The development being served is either existing or planned for development and will not result in the generation of wastewater beyond that already planned allowed. Other than a small amount of construction wastes, this project will not generate solid wastes and will not adversely affect the existing solid waste collection and disposal system.

The proposed project will not increase surface water runoff from the site or alter present drainage patterns. Surface water at the Well #14 site drains to a small drainage swale located along the westerly edge of the site. This project will not affect that swale or existing drainage patterns. Because no impact to services and utility systems can be identified, no mitigation is required.

Potentially
Significant
Impact

Less than
Significant with
Mitigation Incorporation

Less than
Significant
Impact

No
Impact

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE –

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. | Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b. | Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c. | Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

SUBSTANTIATION:

- a. The well is located on a site that has been lightly disturbed by human activities. The site is adjoined by two roads, a water aqueduct and sparse residential development. The site is within the historic range of the Mojave ground squirrel (MGS) and has some potential for desert tortoise to occur. The site also contains Joshua trees, cactus, and possibly other plants protected by the State Desert Native Plant Act of 1983. Adequate mitigation for potential impacts to desert tortoise and native plants is provided in this document. Informal consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) concluded that, based on a biological survey of the site, it is unlikely that MGS will be affected by this project. No further studies or consultation were required.
- b. The extraction of groundwater has some potential to result in some unquantified cumulative impacts to the quantity and quality of groundwater. The groundwater basin is not adjudicated and is not within the service area of a water purveyor. As such, there is no standard to evaluate the significance of the cumulative impacts to groundwater in the project area.
- c. The provision of an adequate domestic water supply is viewed as a benefit to human beings. The project will not create any hazardous conditions that could either directly or indirectly affect human beings.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

(Any mitigation measures which are not "self-monitoring" shall have a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared and adopted at time of project approval.)

- I-1 All aboveground structures shall be covered with neutral, non-reflective coatings that blend with surrounding uses and color schemes.
- I-2 Special Districts shall select a well site and pipe alignment that avoids disturbance of the Joshua trees onsite. If it is not possible avoid disturbance of a tree or trees. Special Districts shall retain a qualified arborist to evaluate the potential of relocating any affected tree(s). The recommendations of the arborist shall be implemented by Special Districts.
- II-1 Special Districts shall require the contractor(s) to apply water to disturbed portions of the project site if dust is observed migrating from the site during construction activities.
- III-2 The contract with the construction contractor(s) shall require the contractor(s) to provide verification that all equipment is in proper tune per the manufacturer's recommendation.
- IV-1 Prior to any land disturbance activities, Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to delineate the allowed limits of construction disturbance.
- IV-2 Prior to any land disturbance activities, Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to select the type of desert tortoise exclusion fencing and identify the method of installing the fencing at the construction site. The fencing shall be installed prior to the start of land disturbance activities.
- IV-3 Special Districts shall retain a qualified biologist to be present onsite installation of the desert tortoise exclusion fencing to ensure its proper installation and location. The biologist shall survey the area being fenced prior to fence installation to verify no desert tortoise are present or to properly relocate any tortoise encountered. The tortoise exclusion fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities.
- IV-4 Special Districts shall make every feasible effort to avoid the disturbance of Joshua trees or other protected native plants in selecting the location of the proposed water facilities. If Joshua trees or other protected native plants cannot be avoided, the Special Districts shall secure and implement the terms of a Desert Native Plant Harvesting Permit issued by the County of San Bernardino in compliance with County Government Code Section 89.0401 – 89.0435.
- IV-5 Prior to disturbance or alteration of the existing drainage swale onsite, Special Districts shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if any permits or agreements are required for such activities. Special Districts shall comply with the terms and conditions of any permits or agreements.
- V-1 In the unlikely event cultural resources are encountered during construction of these water facilities, activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act and/or the Federal National Policy Act.

- V-2 In the unlikely event paleontologic resources are encountered during construction of these water facilities, activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures.
- V-3 If human remains are encountered on the property, then the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office must be contacted within 24 hours of the find, and all work should be halted until a clearance is given by that office and any other involved agencies. Contact the County Coroner at 175 South Lena Road, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0037 or (909) 387-2543.
- VI-1 The District shall design and construct the site in a manner adequate to convey storm flows around or off the site without causing substantial soil erosion both during construction and after site development.
- XI-1 Special Districts shall require that noise attenuation curtains be utilized during well drilling activities.
- XI-2 Special Districts shall require that non-well drilling construction activities be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- XI-3 Special Districts shall respond to any noise complaints received for this project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn to 65 dBA exterior or an Ldn of 45 dBA interior at the receptor, Special Districts shall implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible.
- XV-1 Special Districts shall require the construction contractor to submit and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that identifies the traffic control methods that will be implemented during construction to reduce the risks of hazardous conditions to vehicles during construction. The TMP shall include the use of signage or other traffic control measures deemed appropriate by Special Districts, such as restricting the time when trenches may be left open. The TMP shall also identify the methods that will be implemented to return the roadway to as near its pre-project condition as feasible.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Appendix H

To: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130

From: (Public Agency) Special Districts Department
157 W. Fifth St., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450

Subject:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

CSA 70, Zone L, Well No. 14

Project Title

2000051096

Gary Martin

(909) 387-5964

State Clearing House Number
(If submitted to Clearinghouse)

Lead Agency
Contact Person

Area Code/Telephone/Ext.

13651 East 263rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92729

Project Location (include County)

Project Description - Drill and equip a new water well, includes site fencing, electrical service, booster station and tank.

This is to advise that Emil Marzullo, Director of Special Districts Department, has approved the above described

Lead Agency

Responsible Agency

project on 11-9-99 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.
(Date)

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

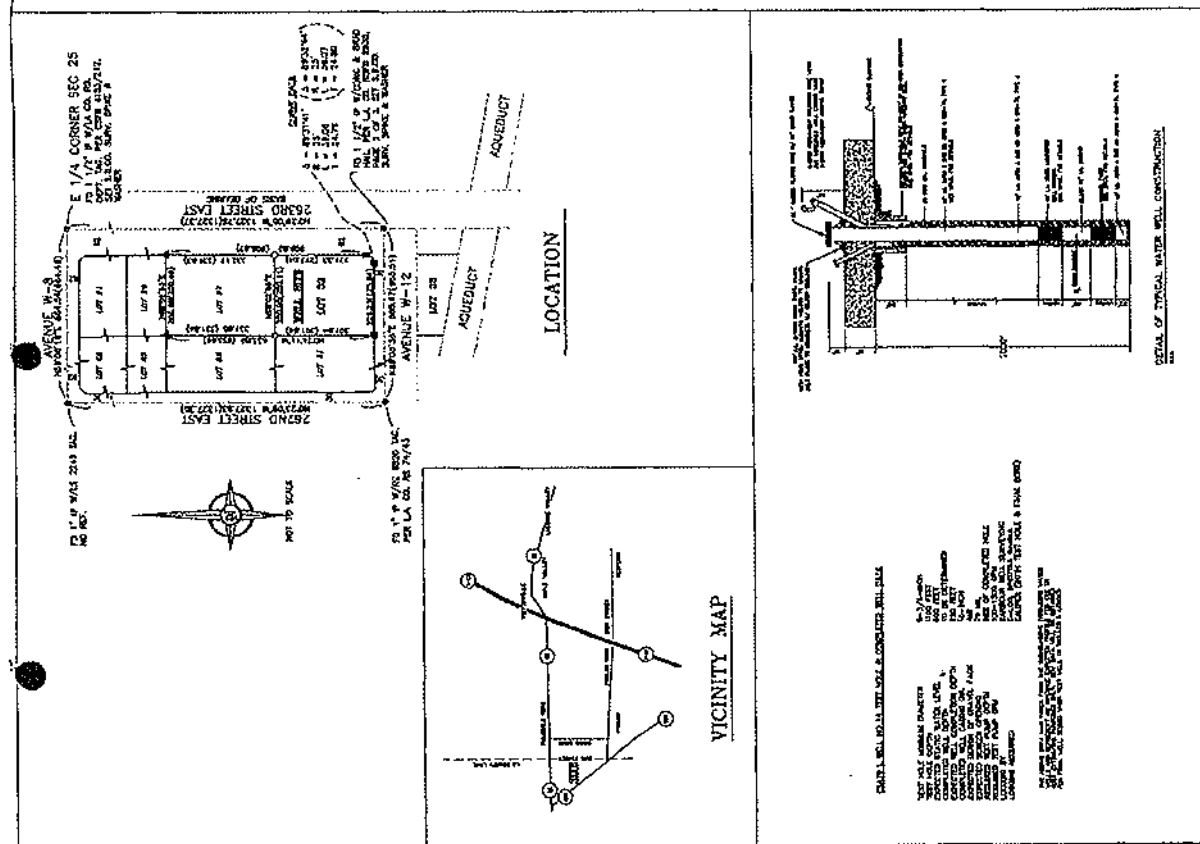
This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of San Bernardino

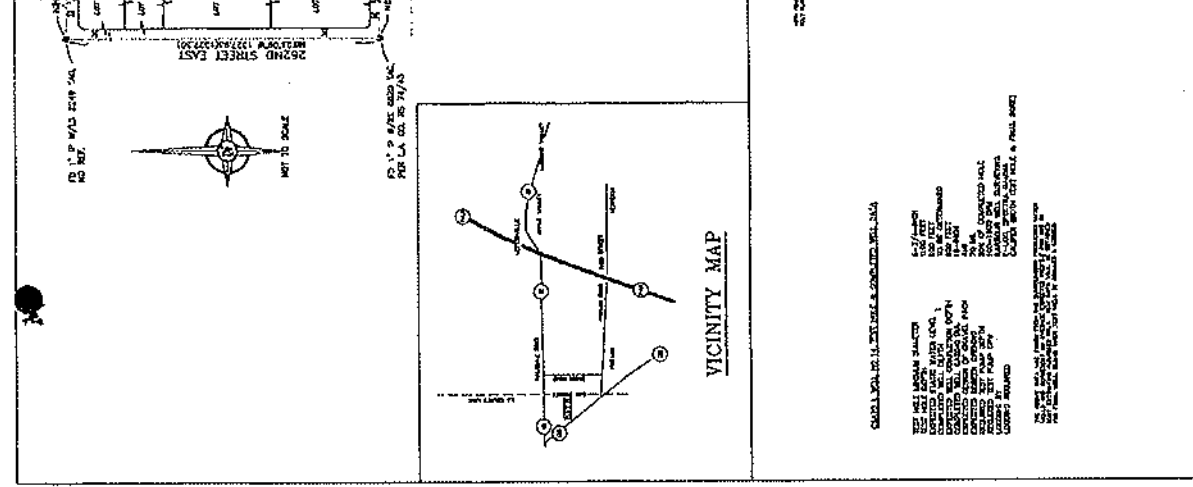
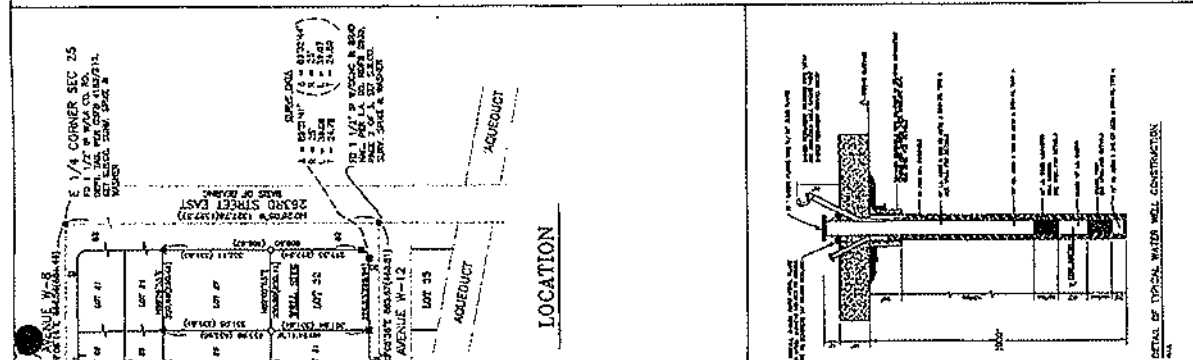
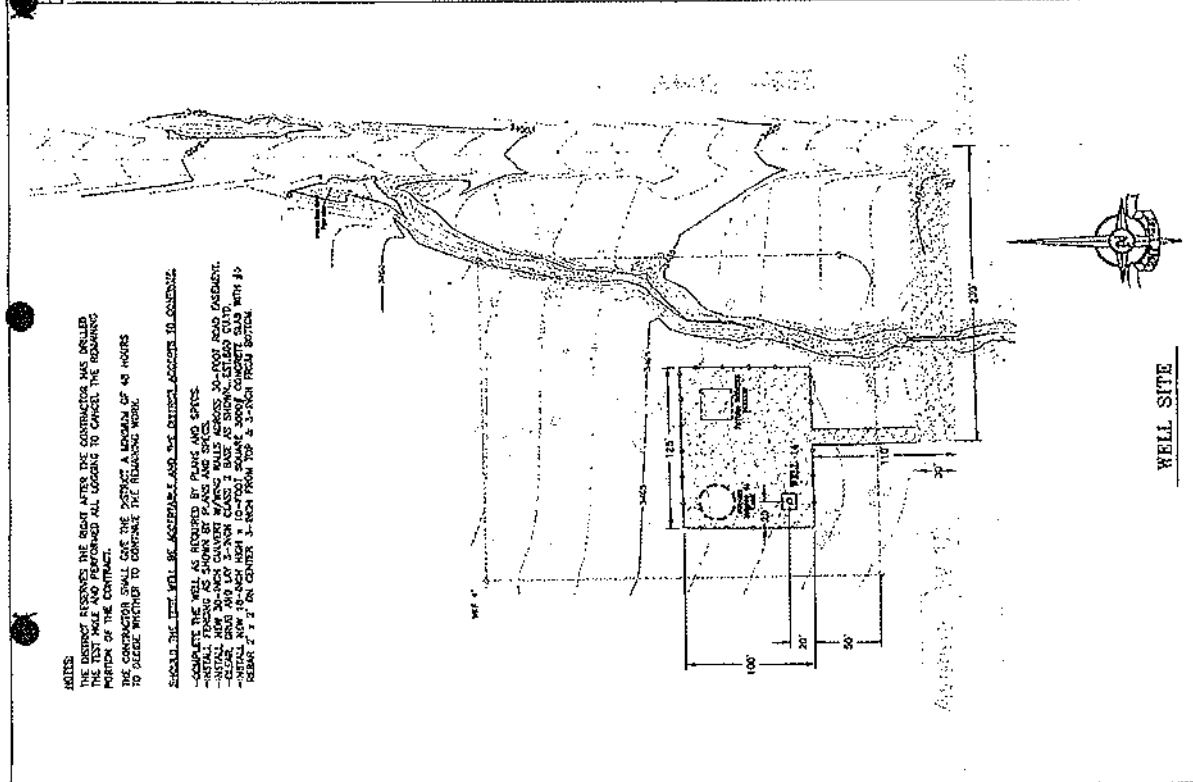
Signature (Public Agency)

Date

Title

Date received for filing at OPR:





















Radius of corner =



















