NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 6, this notice is to advise that the City of Banning, as lead agency, has completed and is issuing notification of the availability of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project as described below.

PROJECT TITLE: Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project consists of replacement of approximately 6.5 miles of water pipeline within Banning "water" Canyon, which is located in the northern portion of the City.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Banning owns and operates approximately 6.5 miles of steel water transmission pipeline within Banning "water" Canyon. Due to the age of the transmission pipeline and its proximity to and within San Gorgonio River, the City has spent significant efforts to fix leaks in the pipeline over recent years. Therefore, the City intends to replace this transmission pipeline in appropriate phases so it is made of durable materials and can be relocated out of the active river channels.

As Phase 1 of the proposed Project, the City of Banning intends to replace 12,550 linear feet (2.38 miles) of the water transmission pipeline segments that have been deemed the most aged and prone to failure. The remaining approximately 22,000 linear feet (4.17 miles) will be replaced as part of Phase 2, which is an unscheduled future phase. The existing water pipeline will be abandoned in place and the replacement pipeline will be located within an existing access road along the eastern bank of the San Gorgonio River. The Project also includes the reconnection of laterals, minimal modifications (e.g. v-ditches and cross gutters), and appurtenances (e.g. air valves and blow offs) to support the replacement pipeline.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The MND determined that the following issue areas have potentially significant environmental impacts that will be mitigated to below a level of significance: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use Planning, Noise, and Utilities and Service Systems.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: As mandated by State Law, the minimum public review period for this document is 30 days. As a result, the MND is available for public review and comment beginning Tuesday 6, 2017 and ending Wednesday, July 5, 2017. The City of Banning, as the Lead Agency, will provide an electronic copy of the MND, and it will be made available on the City's website. A copy of the MND is also available for public review at Banning City Hall, and the Banning Public Library.

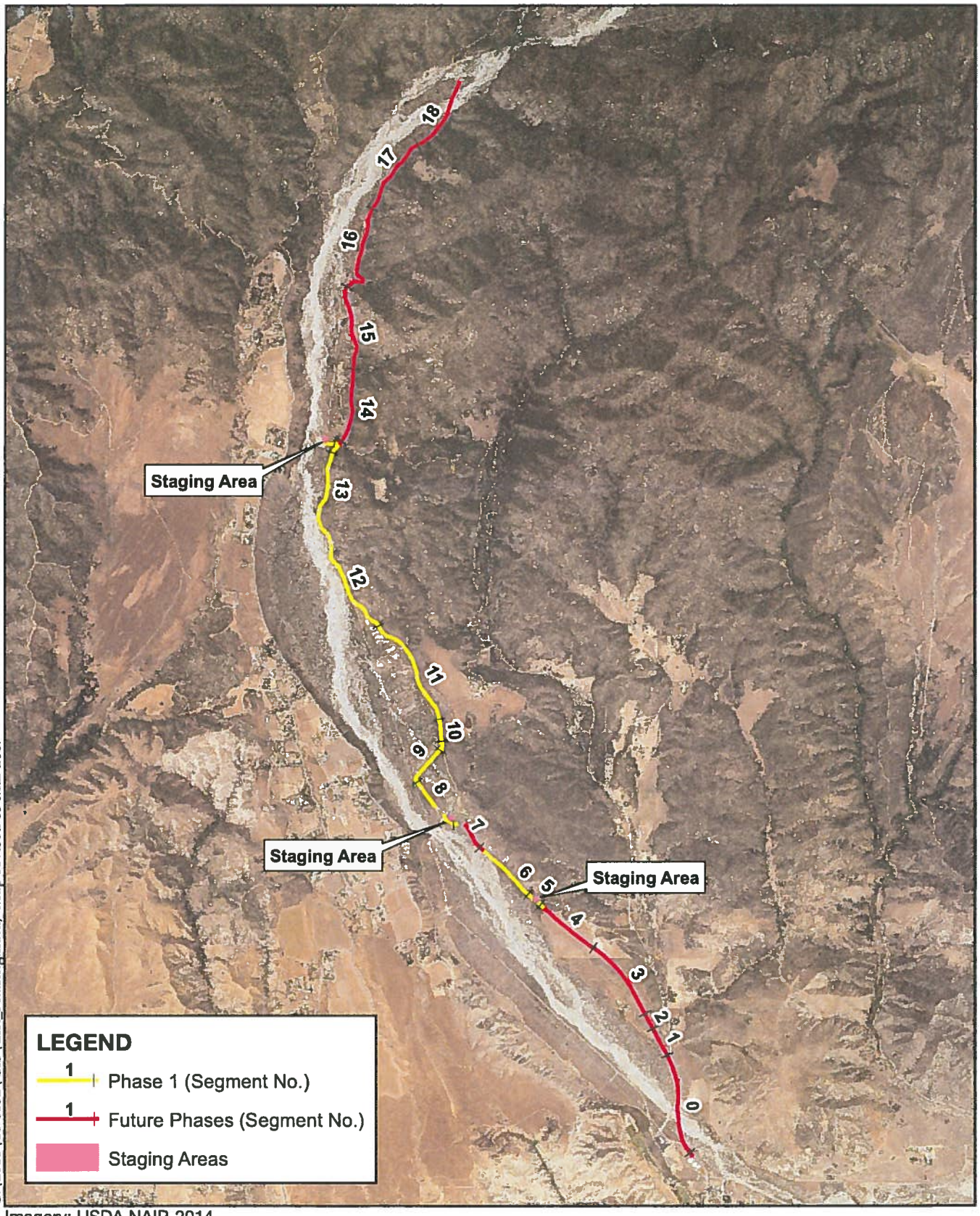
Responses to this MND should be sent to Art Vela, Public Works Director, no later than July 5, 2017, at the following address:

LEAD AGENCY:

City of Banning
Public Works Department
99 E. Ramsey Street
Banning, California 92220

Attn: Art Vela, Public Works Director
(951) 922-3130
avela@ci.banning.ca.us

PUBLIC HEARING: Notification of the date, time, and place of future public hearings will be provided in compliance with the City and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Phasing.mxd; Map revised 13 Mar 2017

Imagery: USDA NAIP, 2014.

Figure 1 - Project Phasing

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

Prepared for:

City of Banning
99 E. Ramsey Street
Banning, CA 92220
Contact: Art Vela, Public Works Director/City Engineer
(951) 922-3130

Prepared by:

Albert A. Webb Associates
3788 McCray Street
Riverside, CA 92506
Contact: Stephanie Standerfer
Vice President
(951) 686-1070

May 2017

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Appendix C	Jurisdictional Delineation Report
Appendix D	Cultural Resources Report

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project title:** Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

2. **Lead agency name and address:**

   City of Banning
   99 E. Ramsey Street
   Banning, CA 92220
   (951) 922-3130

3. **Contact person email address and phone number**:

   Art Vela, Public Works Director
   avela@ci.banning.ca.us
   (951) 922-3130

4. **Project location**: Banning Canyon, Banning, CA 92220, APNs:

▪ 531-090-013	▪ 531-100-003	▪ 531-100-013	▪ 531-290-002
▪ 531-090-016	▪ 531-100-006	▪ 531-110-005	▪ 531-290-026
▪ 531-090-021	▪ 531-100-007	▪ 531-280-006	▪ 531-310-010
▪ 531-100-002	▪ 531-100-010	▪ 531-290-001	

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**

   City of Banning
   99 E. Ramsey Street
   Banning, CA 92220
   (951) 922-3130

6. **General plan designation:** Open Space – Resources, Ranch/Agriculture, Ranch/Agriculture - Hillside

7. **Zoning:** OS/R, R/A, R/A/H

8. Project Description:

Project Description – Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

Background

The proposed Project is the Banning Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement (Project) located in the City of Banning (the City) in Riverside County, Southern California (**Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a-e**). The City of Banning Public Works and Utilities Department currently provides domestic water services to all areas of the City except for a small section in the northern portion of the City, which is serviced by the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company (**Figure 6** – Surrounding Water Agencies). The City owns and operates wells, reservoirs, and a distribution line system to deliver domestic water within the Banning planning area. The City provides municipal water service to an area of approximately 23.2 square miles, including approximately 30,491 people, via 10,648 metered connections (Banning 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), Tables 2-2 and 3-1).

Ground Water Supply

The City of Banning overlies the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin. The San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin includes five hydraulically-connected groundwater storage units, which constitute the City of Banning groundwater resource area: the Banning Storage Unit, the Banning Bench Storage Unit, the Banning Canyon Storage Unit, the Cabazon Storage Unit, and the Beaumont Storage Unit (**Figure 7** – Groundwater Basins). Groundwater recharge to the Banning area is obtained from precipitation infiltrating into the ground within the surface water catchments and particularly in the canyons north of the City. An additional source of recharge is subsurface inflow (i.e. underflow) from storage unit to storage unit, infiltration of Whitewater River diversions in the Banning Canyon, and from infiltration of treated wastewater into the Cabazon Storage Unit. The Banning Canyon area receives water from the infiltration of canyon flows through the gravelly soils of the canyon bottom. The San Gorgonio River running southerly through the Banning Canyon provides intake areas for distributing water to spreading ditches that interconnect with spreading ponds located approximately one mile north of the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration.

City of Banning Production Wells

The City of Banning currently operates 21 active groundwater production wells. The City also co-owns 3 production wells within the Beaumont Storage Unit with the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD). These wells are co-owned and operated by the City of Banning and BCVWD. The City is entitled to half of the water produced from these wells. Several wells are available but are not equipped. The 24 wells have a total design capacity of approximately 24,300 gallons per minute (gpm).

Banning Canyon Storage Unit

The Banning Canyon Storage Unit is located to the north of the Banning Bench Storage Unit. The Banning Canyon Storage Unit is the largest storage unit within the City of Banning. The total surface area of the Storage Unit is approximately 1,058 acres or 1.7 square miles. The primary surface water drainage feature within this storage unit is the San Gorgonio River. The canyon bottom comprises alluvium and the canyon sides are bedrock. The City currently operates eight active production wells with a total capacity of approximately 8,600 gpm. Most of the City of Banning's groundwater is produced from the aquifer within this storage unit. Additional recharge occurs through the operation of diversion of surface water from the upper reaches of the Whitewater River Drainage into Banning Canyon (Banning Canyon Storage Unit), which was initiated in 1913. The diverted water flows along steep mountain slopes for approximately 14 miles in a mostly concrete-lined conveyance system known as "The Flume". Banning Heights Mutual Water Company utilizes approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Whitewater River diversions, the remainder of the diverted water flows into the San Gorgonio River below the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company extraction point. A portion of the natural runoff and the Whitewater River diversions are diverted into spreading ponds adjacent to the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration. The safe yield of the Banning Canyon Storage Unit was estimated in 2011 to be 4,070 AFY (Banning 2015 UWMP, page 5-7).[1]

Surface Water

Starting in 1913, surface water from the Whitewater River was diverted into the Banning Canyon Storage Unit. Surface water flows along a concrete lined conveyance system and through two hydroelectric power plants which have since been decommissioned. Currently, due to damage along sections of the flume, surface flow is diverted into Burnt Canyon to the north and then back to the Flume upstream of Powerhouse No. 1 where it continues downstream through Powerhouse No. 2 to the reservoir operated by Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, where approximately 1,000 AFY is extracted. The remaining water flows into the San Gorgonio River, where it recharges the Banning Canyon Storage Unit. The City of Banning plans to conserve natural and urban stormwater flows from tributary creeks within its service area by allowing water to infiltrate into the ground.

Water Canyon Pipeline Replacement

The City of Banning owns and operates approximately 6.5 miles of steel transmission pipeline, ranging in size from 18 to 24 inches in diameter within Banning "water" Canyon. Due to the age of the transmission pipeline (almost 100 years old) and its proximity to and within San Gorgonio River, multiple leaks have occurred at different locations along its length. The City has spent significant efforts to fix the leaks over recent years.

Notably, this transmission pipeline provides approximately 40% of the City's water supply and is considered the City's backbone water supply infrastructure. Therefore, the City intends

[1] The safe yield of a groundwater basin is defined as the amount of water than can be withdrawn annually without producing an undesirable result. Withdrawal in excess of safe yield is termed overdraft.

to replace this transmission pipeline in appropriate phases so it is made of more current durable materials and can be relocated out of the active river channels. Completing this project will decrease water system losses and improve the efficiency of nearly half of the City of Banning's water supply. Additionally, by relocating the water line to the existing access road and out of the active River system, it will lessen the amount of habitat and resource disturbance through maintenance of the pipeline.

As Phase 1 of the proposed Project, the City of Banning intends to replace 12,550 linear feet (2.38 miles) of the water transmission pipeline segments that have been deemed the most aged and prone to failure. Old pipeline segments will be replaced with either new Cement Mortar-Lined and Coated Steel (CML/C) pipe or new Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP), ranging in diameter from 12 to 24 inches. In order to eliminate aging infrastructure, the replacement pipeline will be located within an existing access road along the eastern bank of the San Gorgonio River. The existing water pipeline will be abandoned in place.

There are existing water service customers that directly receive their potable water from the Banning Water Canyon water pipeline. Therefore, the proposed Project will also include the reconnection of existing water service laterals. It is expected that private water customers will not lose service during the project except for short periods of time during construction to allow for the switchover to the new pipeline.

The Project will also include minimal modifications, such as v-ditches and cross gutters to the access road in order to allow for better drainage and decrease maintenance. Additionally, the Project will include appurtenances such as air valves and blow offs that are necessary to regulate pipeline water pressure.

The proposed pipeline replacement project has been separated into 19 segments and two phases (**Figure 4**). Phase 1 includes replacing 10 segments of pipeline: Segments 5, 6, 8 through 13, and parts of Segments 4 and 14. Segments 4, 5 and 6 will consist of 2,100 linear feet of 20-inch diameter pipe, Segment 8 will consist of 550 linear feet of 20-inch diameter pipeline, and Segments 9 through 14 will consist of 9,900 linear feet of 18-inch diameter pipeline. The remaining nine segments (0, 1, 2, 3, 7, 15, 16, 17 and 18) which total approximately 22,000 will be replaced as part of Phase 2, which is an unscheduled future phase of the project.

Phase 1 construction is anticipated to begin in September 2017 and would be completed by January 2018. Construction would entail laying approximately 100-150 feet of pipeline per day, for approximately 4,500 square feet of daily disturbance. Total Phase 1 disturbance, including the entire construction footprint and staging areas, is estimated at 12 acres. Phase 1 construction will last approximately 100-150 working days, or 5-7 months. Phase 2 is not currently scheduled, but will be completed in the future. While Phase 2 will ultimately have a longer construction period, no additional or different construction equipment is expected and the disturbance area will be similar at approximately 100-150 feet of pipeline per day. The construction site will also be watered 3x daily during ground disturbing activities to reduce particulate matter emissions. After each construction phase has been completed, the new pipeline will need to be flushed and disinfected in order to transfer the water supply for public

safety. Any new pipeline segments above the existing percolation basins onsite will divert flushed water to these basins. The remainder of flushed water will flow to the lowest point which is the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm. Flushed water will be discharged in accordance with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The proposed pipeline alignment primarily follows an unimproved dirt access road that measures approximately 30 feet wide. Southern portions of the proposed Project are on private property within a hillside ranch/agricultural residential area. The main surrounding land use is the San Gorgonio River, an intermittent stream with sparse vegetation at the base of Banning Canyon. The San Gorgonio River and base of Banning Canyon mainly consist of open space and natural vegetation. Wells operated by the City of Banning Public Works and Utilities Department are present adjacent to the proposed pipeline alignment. Scattered single family residential homes are present at the top of Banning Canyon to the east and west of the proposed Project. The proposed Project is bordered on the north by lands that occur within the County of San Bernardino, and lands within the San Bernardino National Forest.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

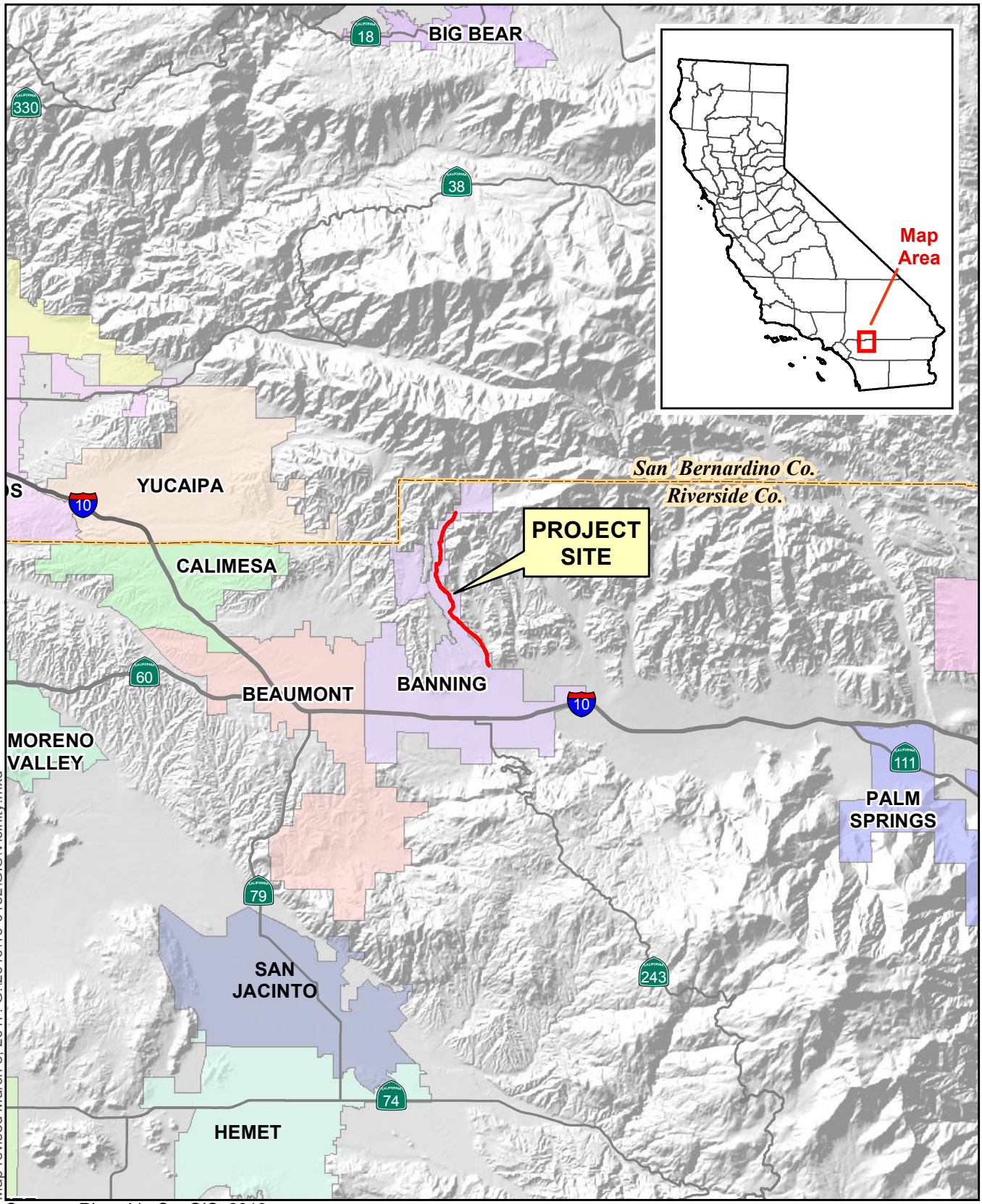
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado Region, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

The following tribes responded in writing to the City's AB 52 consultation request; Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Consultation was requested by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians; the other responding tribes indicated that consultation was not needed and/or deferred to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. A consultation meeting with a Morongo representative took place on March 16, 2017 and a follow up comment letter was received on May 18, 2017. A consultation meeting was held with a Soboba representative on December 14, 2016 and a letter with specific requests was provided by the Soboba on March 16, 2017 to the City.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and

address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.



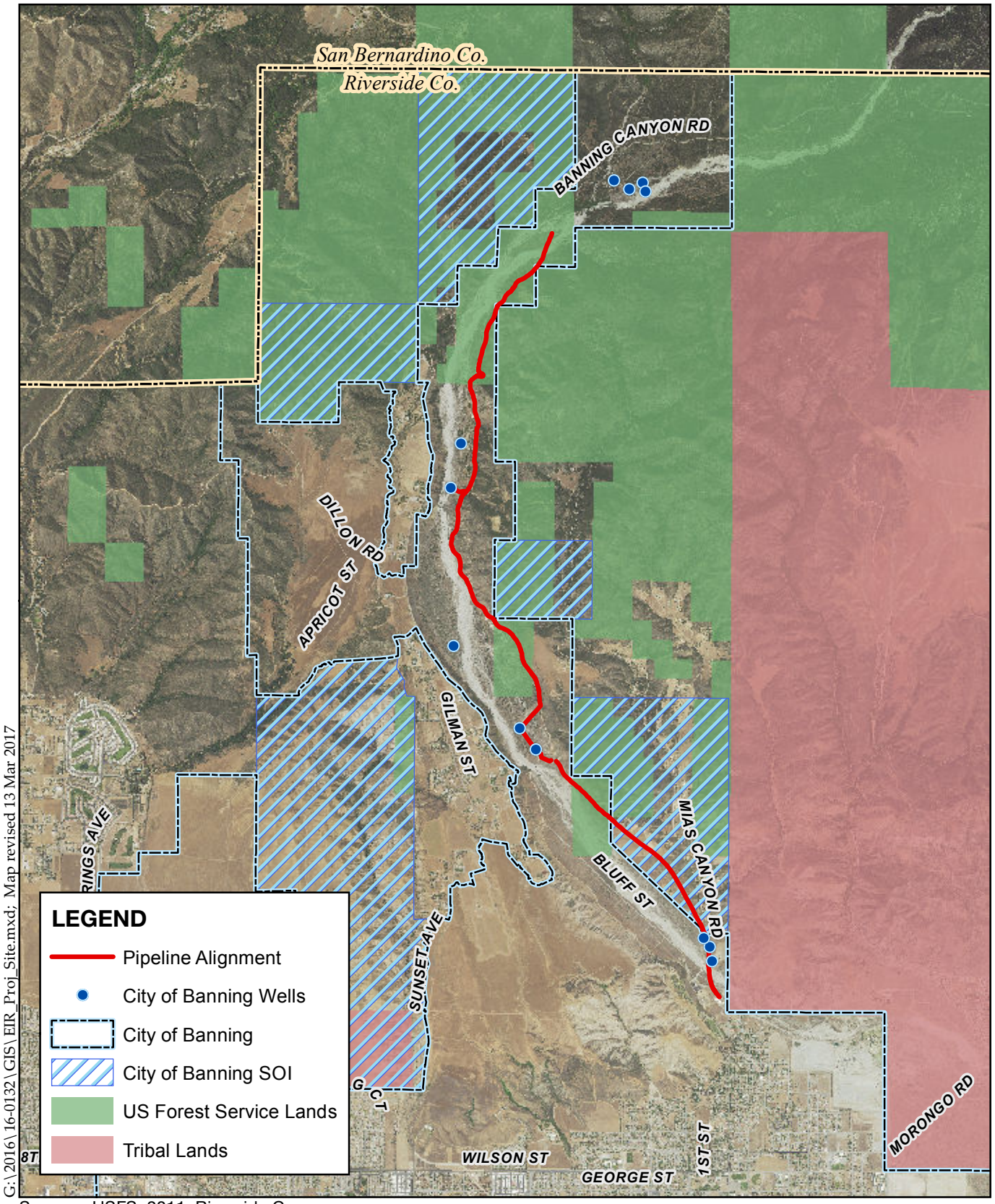
Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2016;
San Bernardino Co. GIS, 2015.

0 2 4 6 Miles

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



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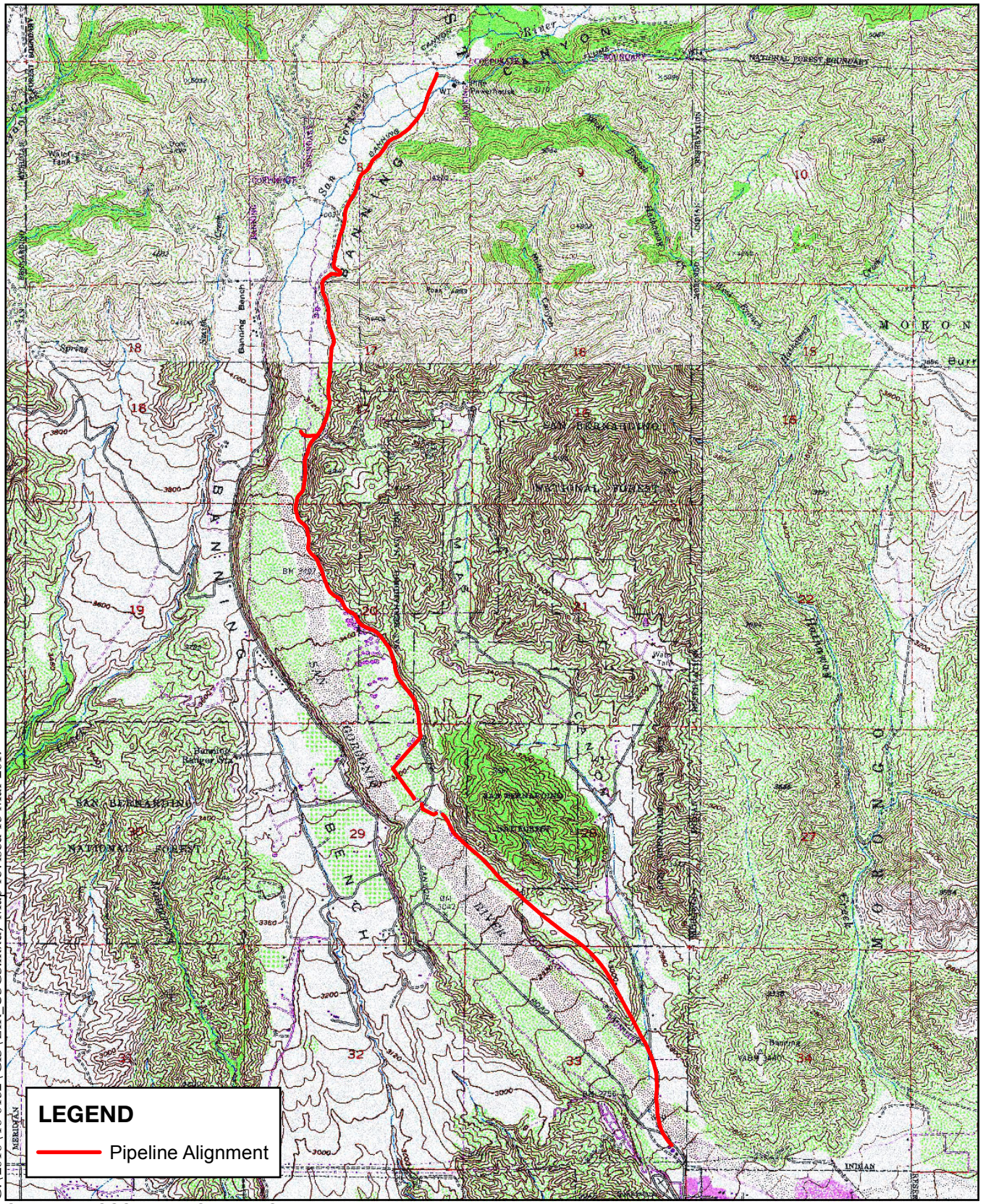
Sources: USFS, 2011; Riverside Co. GIS, 2016; USDA NAIP, 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet

Figure 2 - Project Site

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



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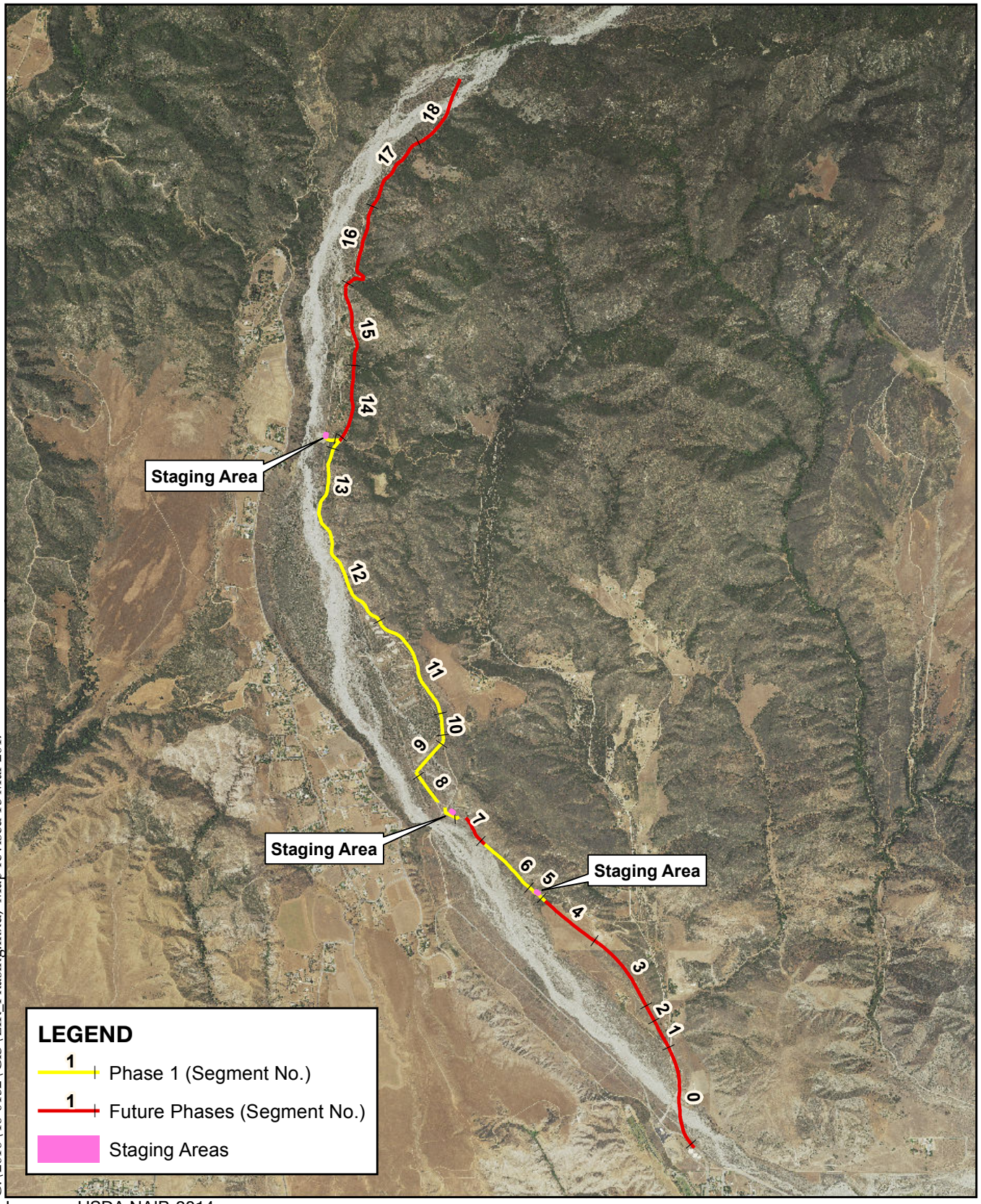
Sources: USGS 7.5min Quad DRGs:
FOREST FALLS/BEAUMONT/CABAZON

Figure 3 - USGS Map

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



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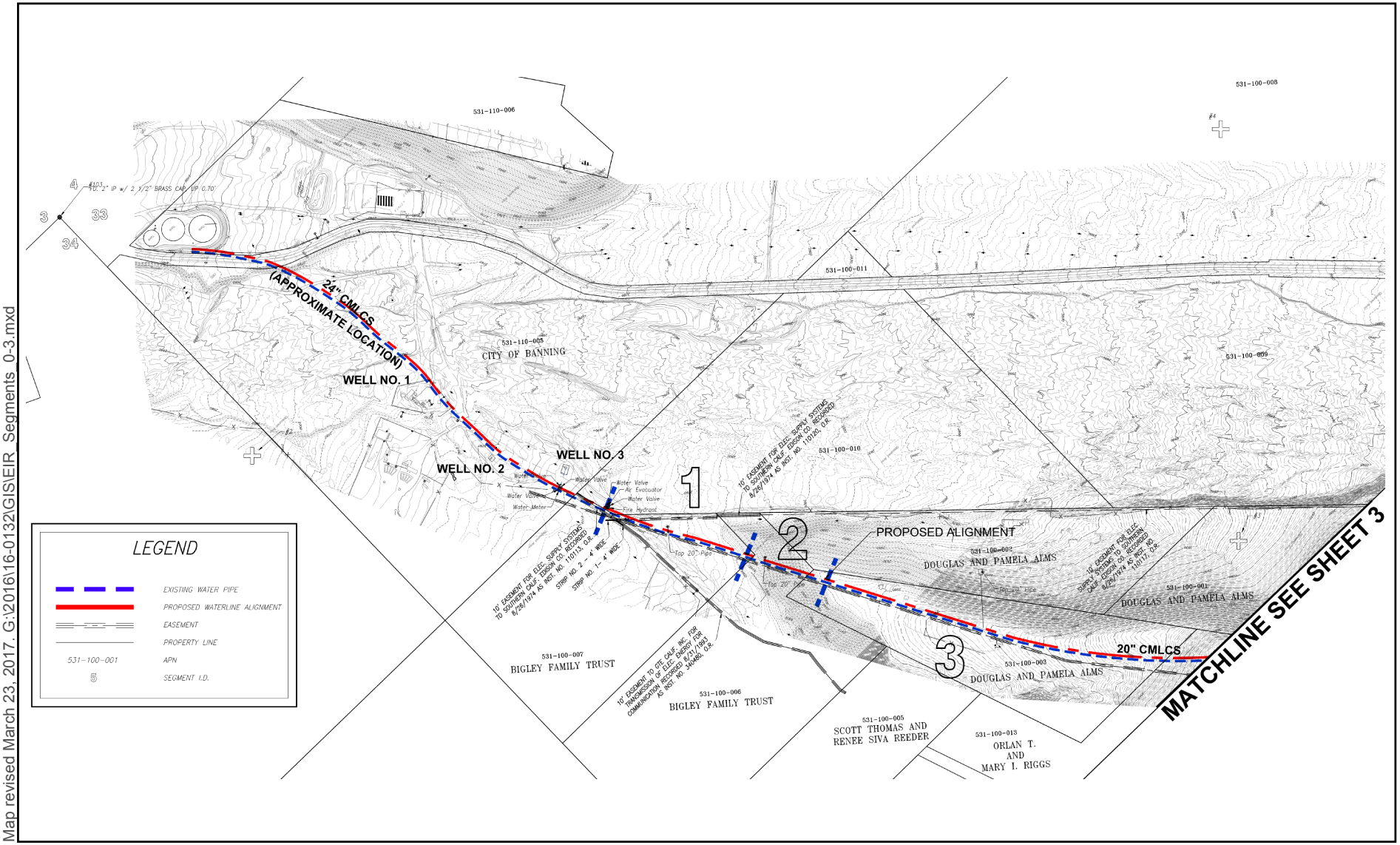
Imagery: USDA NAIP, 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Figure 4 - Project Phasing

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



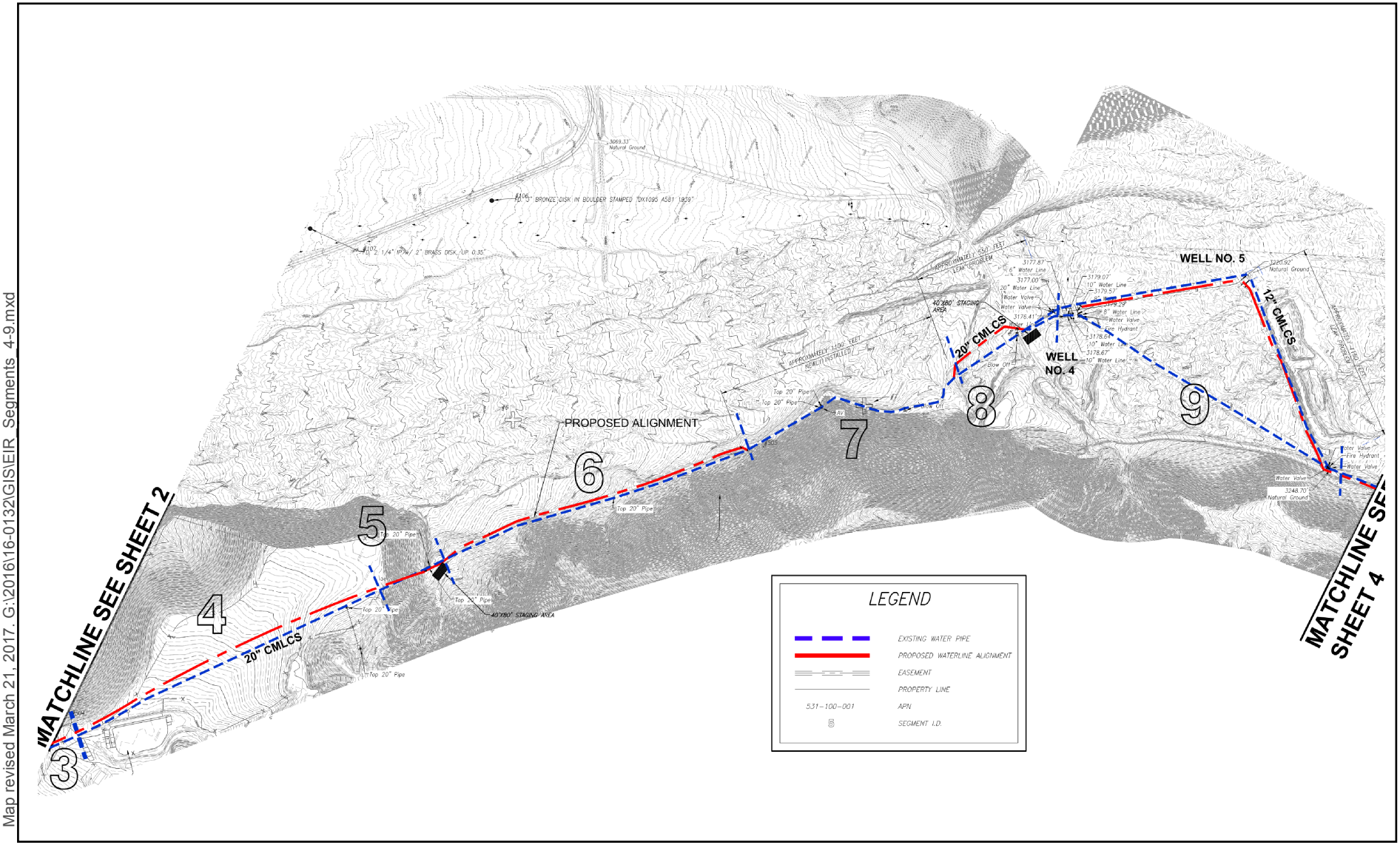
Map revised March 23, 2017. G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Segments_0-3.mxd

Not to Scale

Figure 5a – Pipeline Alignment - Segments 0-3

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



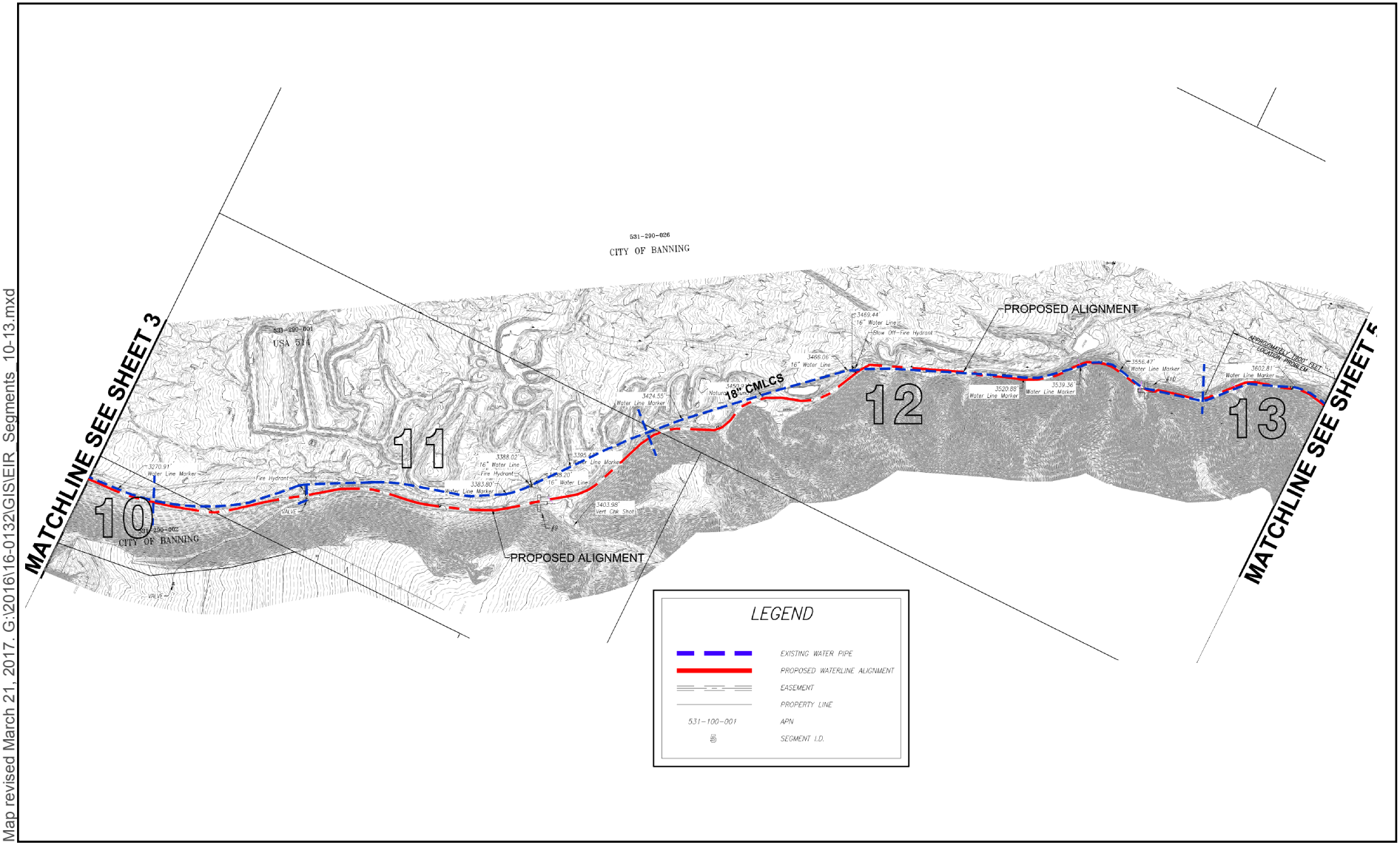
Map revised March 21, 2017. G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Segments_4-9.mxd

Not to Scale

Figure 5b – Pipeline Alignment - Segments 3-9

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



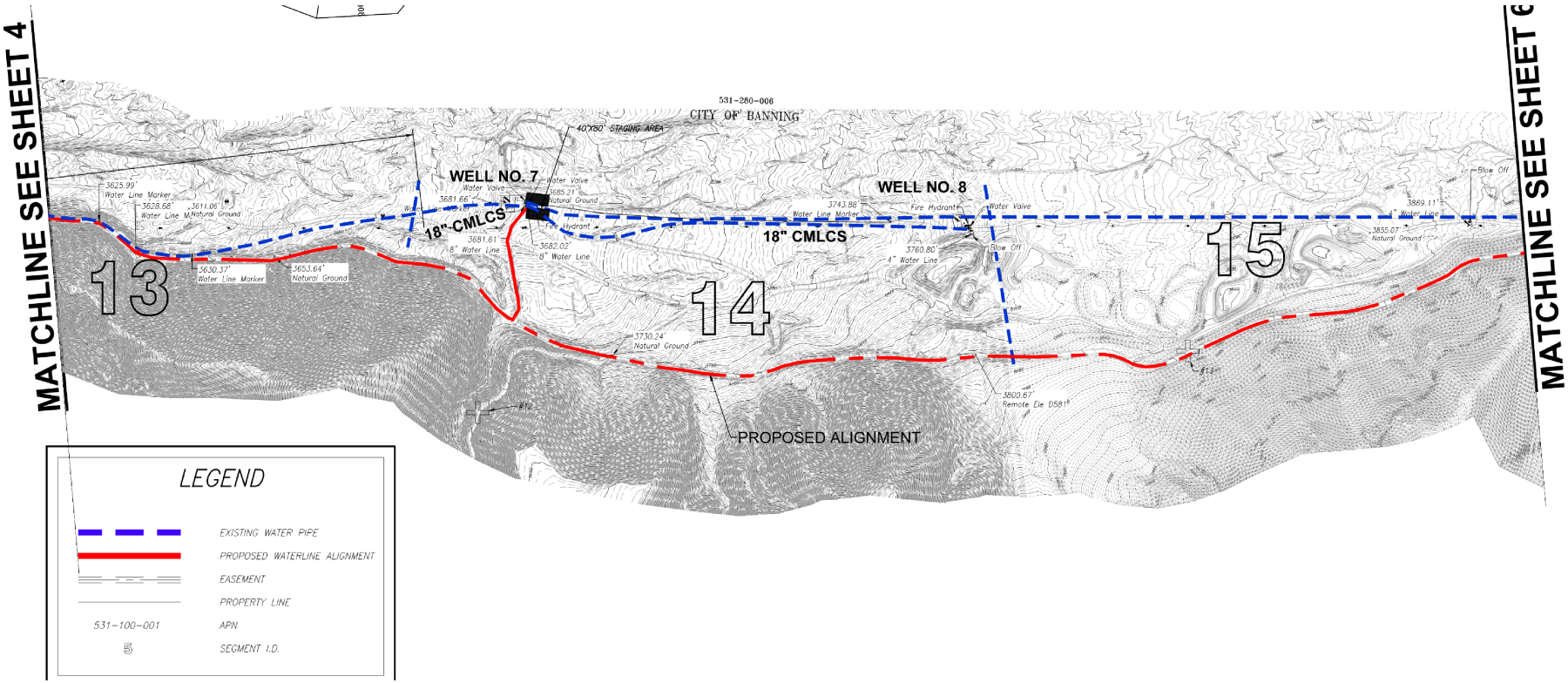
Map revised March 21, 2017. G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Segments_10-13.mxd

Not to Scale

Figure 5c – Pipeline Alignment - Segments 10-13

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Map revised March 21, 2017. G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Segments_13-15.mxd

Figure 5d – Pipeline Alignment - Segments 13-15

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

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ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

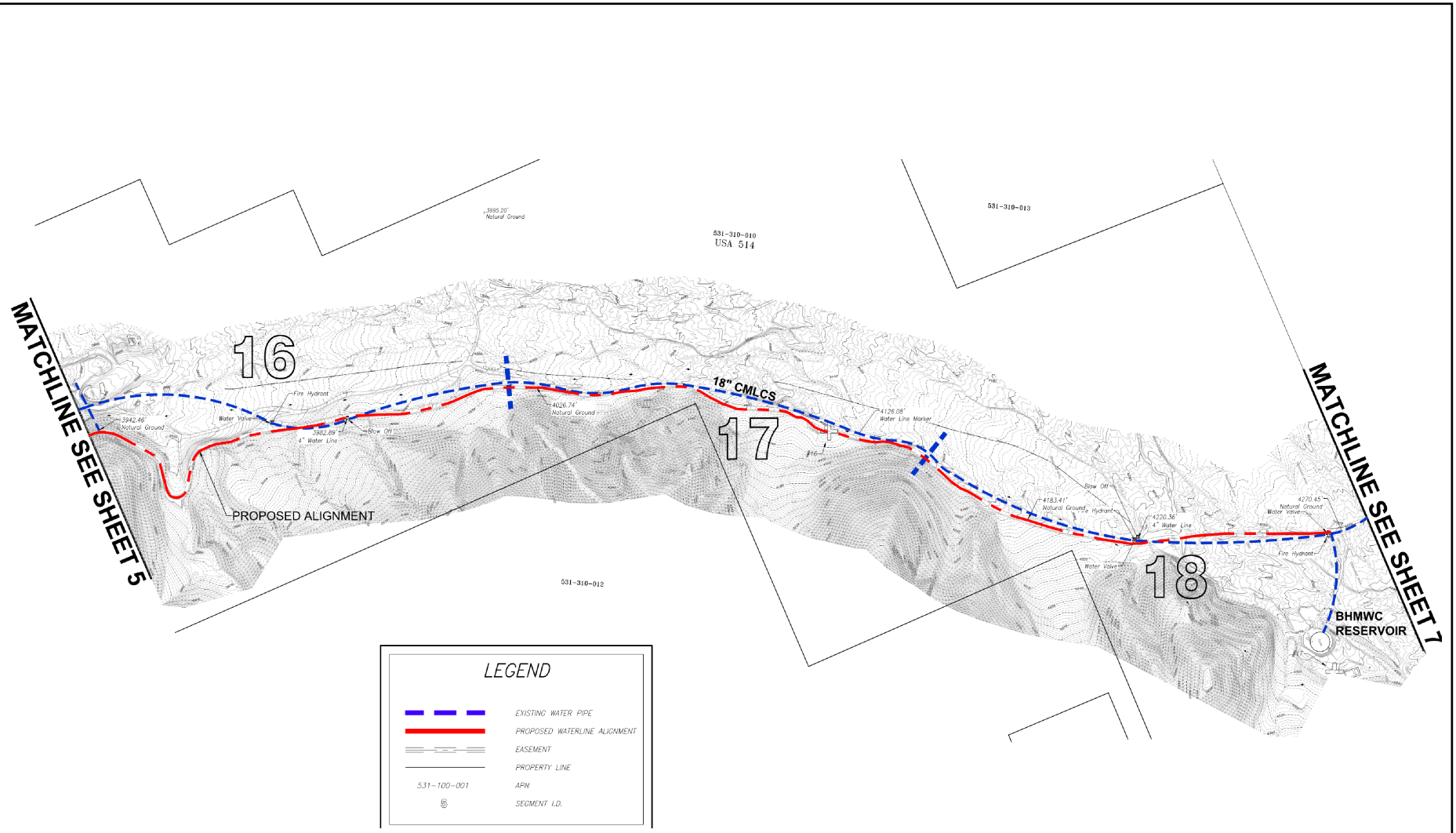

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Figure 5e – Pipeline Alignment - Segments 16-18

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

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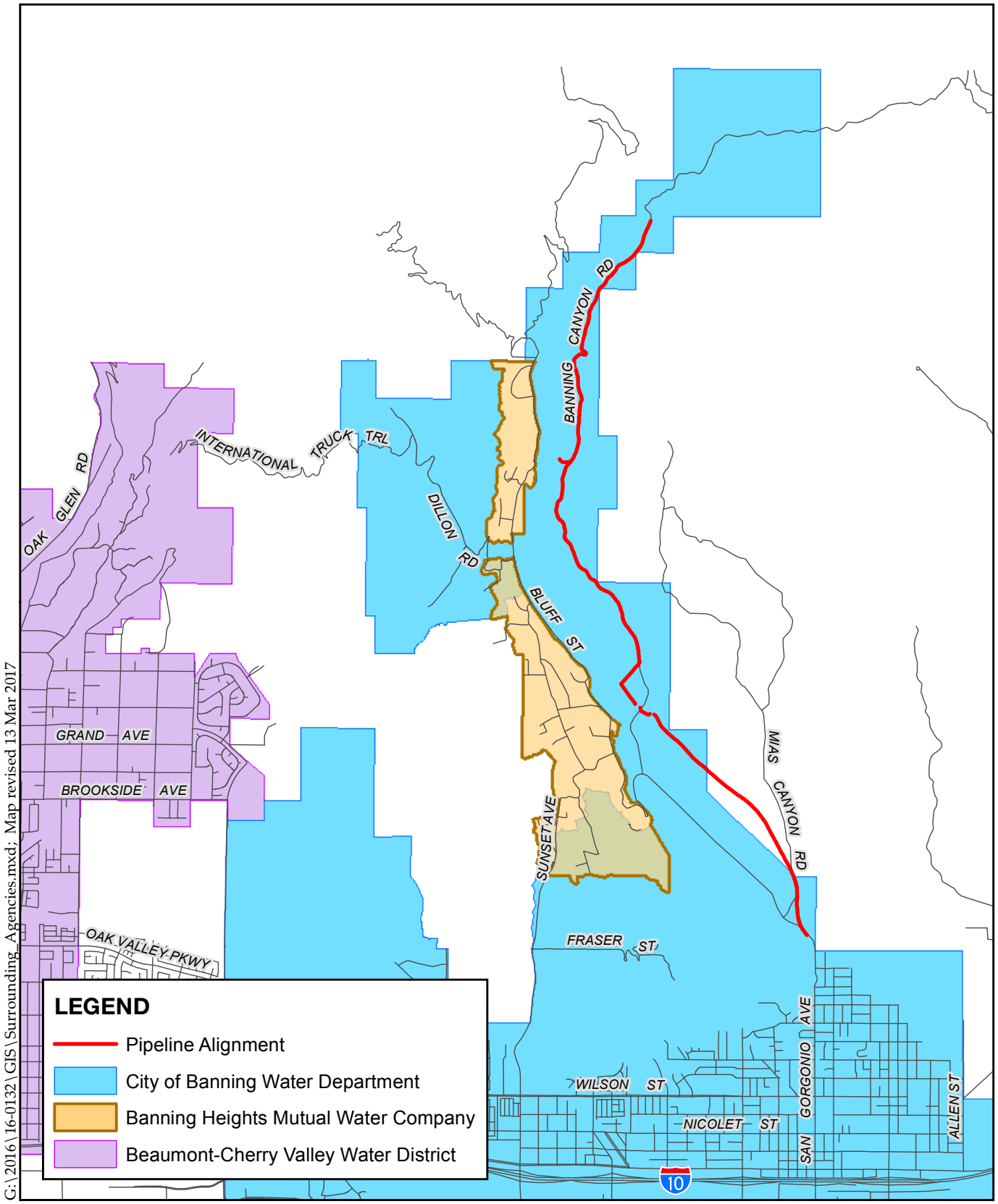


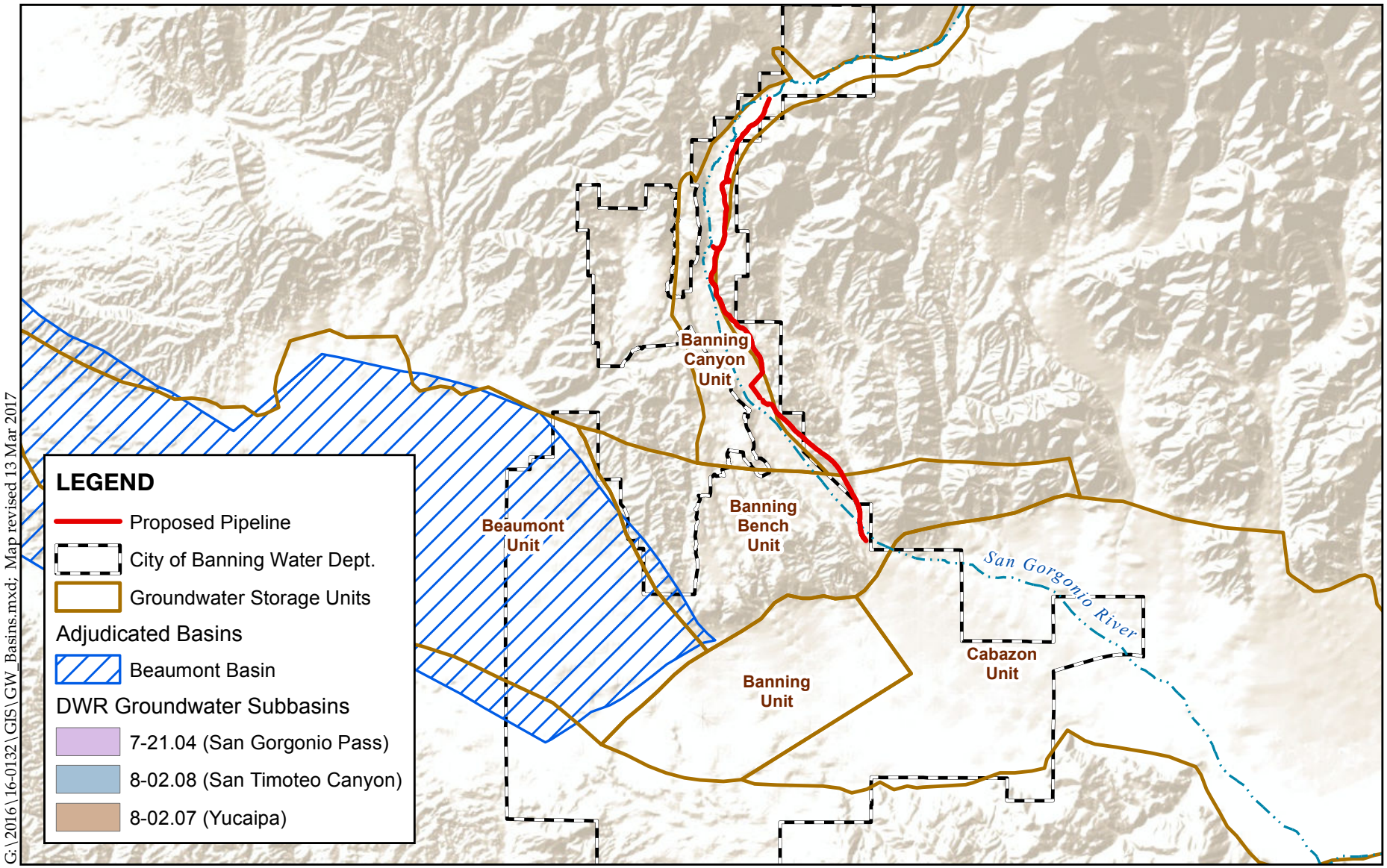
Sources: LAFCO 2010;
Riverside County GIS, 2017.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet

Figure 6 - Surrounding Water Agencies

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Sources: CA Dept. of Water Resources, 2016; USGS, 2006; City of Banning 2017; Riverside County GIS, 2017.

Figure 7 - Groundwater Agencies

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

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 and Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources	☐ Utilities/Service Systems
☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance		

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that 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 must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that 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.

Signature _____ Date 6-5-17

Art Vela, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Banning
Printed Name

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved *(e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone)*. A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards *(e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis)*.

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed below:

   a. **Earlier Analysis Used.** Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b. **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c. **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts *(e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances)*. Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Aesthetics Discussion:

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The City of Banning (City) defines visual resources as those physical features that enhance the City's aesthetic and scenic character. The San Gorgonio Pass presents impressive viewsheds and dramatic scenery including frequently snow-covered mountain peaks and ranges with rugged slopes. The steep San Bernardino Mountains dominate the northern end of the valley, and include the tallest peak in southern California, San Gorgonio Peak, which rises to an elevation of 11,499 feet. The San Bernardino Mountains are visible from the project alignment.

The proposed Project alignments for both Phase 1and 2 includes replacement of a water pipeline that will be buried underground and is not located within the scenic area of San Gorgonio Pass. Any temporary impacts associated with construction of the pipeline will not block views or impact scenic vistas of the surrounding San Bernardino Mountains. Therefore, any impacts related to scenic vistas will be **less than significant**.

Source: GP DEIR

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

A portion of State Highway 243, which is designated a scenic highway occurs in the City's southern Sphere of Influence (SOI). The proposed Project is in the northern portion of the City and not adjacent to the state scenic highway.

As identified in the City's General Plan (GP), the San Gorgonio River in the Banning Canyon has high visual sensitivity and scenic value. The proposed Project involves replacement of a water pipeline that will be underground. Most of the pipeline will be within an existing access road in Banning Canyon, and portions not within the access road are designed to minimize impacts to any vegetation and rock outcroppings. Therefore any impacts to the San Gorgonio River and Banning Canyon will be **less than significant**.

Source: CalTrans; Project Description; GP DEIR

c) Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

As discussed in b) above, the San Gorgonio River in the Banning Canyon has high visual sensitivity and scenic value. The proposed Project involves a water pipeline replacement that will be buried underground. Therefore any impacts relating to the degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the San Gorgonio River and Banning Canyon will be **less than significant**.

Source: Project Description; GP DEIR

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The proposed Project is within Zone B of Riverside County Ordinance 655, or within a 45 mile radius of the Mt. Palomar Observatory. The proposed Project involves replacement of a water pipeline that will be buried underground, and does not include any sources of light or glare. Therefore there will be **no impact** related to substantial new sources of light or glace which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Source: Project Description; RC GIS; Ord 655

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
II. AGRICULTURAL and FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
d. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Agricultural Resources Discussion:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

The proposed Project is not located within areas of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. According to the California Department of Conservation *California Important Farmland Finder*, the Project site consists of Grazing Land, Farmland of Local Importance, and Other Land.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground. Therefore the proposed Project will have **no impact** in terms of converting any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

Source: DOC

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

The proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, there will be **no impact**.

Source: DOC WA

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

The proposed Project site is within the City of Banning which does not have zoning designated as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production within City limits. Therefore, there will be **no impact**.

Source: GIS Zoning Map

d) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground. Although the proposed Project occurs on Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance and portions of the Project are within areas zoned for Ranch/Agriculture and Ranch/Agriculture - Hillside, implementation would not cause conversion to a non-agricultural use. In addition, the majority of the proposed Project is zoned as Open Space – Resources. The City's GP does not identify any forest land zoned uses within City limits. Therefore, impacts related to the conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use will be **less than significant**.

Source: DOC; GIS Zoning Map

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Air Quality Discussion:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The City of Banning and the San Gorgonio Pass are located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepares the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin. The AQMD sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP's control measures and related emission reduction estimates are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, if a project demonstrates compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections, then the AQMP would have taken into account such uses when it was developed.

According to the City's GP Land Use Map and Zoning Ordinance, the proposed Project is mostly within an Open Space – Resources land use area, with southern portions also within Ranch/Agriculture and Ranch/Agriculture - Hillside zoned areas. The proposed Project involves the construction of a water pipeline that will be buried underground, and any impacts from construction will be temporary. Therefore, the proposed Project will not conflict with any land use plan. Additionally, the proposed Project does not propose any new housing or businesses and will not cause a substantial increase in population. Therefore, the proposed Project is consistent with the AQMP and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: GP DEIR; 2016 Draft AQMP

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Air quality impacts can be described in a short- and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts occur during site grading and Project construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term air quality impacts occur once the Project is in operation. The Project consists of the replacement of an existing water pipeline. Operational emissions would be primarily from the infrequent visits by vehicles (1 vehicle 2 to 5 times a week) driven by maintenance personnel and are considered negligible; therefore, only short-term impacts were evaluated in the Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (AQ/GHG) Analysis prepared by WEBB (Appendix A).

The Project will be required to comply with existing SCAQMD rules for the reduction of fugitive dust emissions. SCAQMD Rule 403 establishes these procedures. Compliance with this rule is achieved through application of standard best management practices in construction and operation activities, such as application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, managing haul road dust by application of water, covering haul vehicles, restricting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph, sweeping loose dirt from paved site access roadways, cessation of construction activity when winds exceed 25 mph and establishing a permanent, stabilizing ground cover on finished sites. In addition, projects that disturb 50 or more acres or more of soil or move 5,000 cubic yards of materials per day are required to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form to SCAQMD. Based on the size of the Project's daily disturbance area (less than one acre per day), a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form would not be required. To evaluate Project compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 for fugitive dust control, the Project utilized the mitigation option in CalEEMod of watering the Project site three times daily which achieves a control efficiency of 61 percent for PM-10 and PM-2.5 emissions.

Short-term emissions from Phase 1 construction were evaluated using the CalEEMod version 2013.2.2 program. The results of this analysis are summarized in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1 – Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
Pipeline Construction – 2017	1.76	15.37	13.98	0.02	1.29	1.06
Pipeline Construction – 2018	1.53	13.49	13.71	0.02	1.20	0.90
Maximum	**1.76**	**15.37**	**13.98**	**0.02**	**1.29**	**1.06**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

As shown in **Table 3.1** above, the emissions from construction of Phase 1 of the Project are below the SCAQMD daily construction thresholds for all the criteria pollutants. In addition, the short-term emissions do not exceed SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds (LST) without mitigation, as contained in the AQ/GHG Analysis (Appendix A). Therefore, Phase 1 emissions for the Project will be below SCAQMD's criteria pollutant thresholds on a regional and localized level. Phase 2 is expected to have similar criteria pollutant emissions since the disturbance area will be similar, at approximately 150 feet of pipeline per day, and no additional or different equipment is expected to be used during the future Phase 2 construction. Therefore, the proposed Project (Phase 1 and 2) will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: AQ/GHG Analysis prepared by WEBB, August 2016

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)?

Air quality in the City of Banning and the San Gorgonio Pass region is generally good. However, air quality in the region and the City has exceeded state and federal standards for some pollutants in the past. The principal pollutants which adversely affect air quality are ozone and particulate matter (PM_{10}). The Pass is classified as a severe ozone nonattainment area under the federal Clean Air Act. Monitoring data indicate that a substantial amount of ozone is produced and transported through the pass from communities to the west. The Pass region has been designated as a federal "non-attainment" area for PM_{10}.

To reduce impacts, the City has established nuisance abatement ordinances dealing with smoke and soot such as that which is generated by internal combustion engines, residential fireplaces or stoves, or industrial smokestacks. The proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline that will not generate smoke or soot during operation. Operational emissions from infrequent maintenance vehicles will be negligible.

The City also relies on applicable state code and AQMD Rules, including Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust), for authority to enforce fugitive dust compliance as needed, and refers complaints regarding fugitive dust violations directly to SCAQMD for compliance enforcement. To evaluate Project compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 for fugitive dust control, the Project AQ/GHG Analysis

(Appendix A) utilized the mitigation option of watering the Project site three times daily which achieves a control efficiency of 61 percent for PM-10 and PM-2.5 emissions.

Since the proposed Project's emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance (see Response 3b, above), the Project's net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable. Therefore impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: AQ/GHG Analysis, August 2016; GP DEIR

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The proposed Project is primarily located in an open space area, but does contain segments adjacent to single family residences. As detailed in the AQ/GHG Analysis, the closest sensitive receptors are the residences adjacent to Phase 1 Segment 5 and Phase 2 Segments 1 through 4 of the proposed Project alignment. Short-term emissions will be generated in the Project area during construction of the proposed Project and have been found to be less than significant (see Response 3b and Appendix A). Therefore, the proposed Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Source: AQ/GHG Analysis prepared by WEBB, August 2016

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

The proposed Project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project site. Odors generated during construction will be short-term and will not result in a long-term odorous impact to the surrounding area. Since the proposed Project involves the construction of a water pipeline that will be buried underground, there will be no creation of objectionable odors after construction has been completed. Recognizing the short-term duration and quantity of emissions in the proposed Project area, and the lack of people residing in the project area that would be subject to any construction odors, the proposed Project will result in **less than significant** impacts relating to objectionable odors.

Source: AG/GHG Analysis prepared by WEBB, August 2016

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Biological Resource Discussion:

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The alignment for the proposed Project was surveyed by Cadre Environmental in June 2016 for the presence of listed species (see Appendix B). The majority of the alignment for both Phase 1 and 2 are within the existing disturbed access road. The Western Riverside County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) has determined that all of the sensitive plant and wildlife species potentially occurring onsite have been adequately covered. However, additional surveys would be required for narrow endemic plants and/or criteria area species and specific wildlife species if suitable habitat is documented onsite and/or if the property is located within a predetermined Survey Area (**Figure 8** – MSHCP Relationship Map).

The Project Site occurs completely within a predetermined MSHCP Survey Area for narrow endemic plant species including Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*) and many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*). Both species are dependent on clay soils of the following series: Altamont, Auld, Bosanko, Claypit, and Porterville. Based on a lack of suitable soils and primarily disturbed condition of the Project alignments for both Phase 1 and 2, neither species is expected to be present.

Although the majority of the Project Site alignment occurs within a predetermined MSHCP Survey Area for mammals including the Los Angeles pocket mouse (Perognathus longimembris brevinasus) (LAPM), which is a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC), 84% of the Project Site does not represent suitable habitat. Based on the presence of suitable soils, vegetation and historic observations of the species in the vicinity, the LAPM is expected to be present within 0.02-acre of Phase 1 (Segment 8), specifically within the alluvial fan sage scrub habitat associated with San Gorgonio River, and 3.04-acres of Phase 2 (Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0), specifically within the California buckwheat scrub, non-native grassland, chamise–coastal sage scrub, disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and San Gorgonio Wash habitats as shown on **Figure 9**.

The Project has been modified to be located within the existing access road in order to limit the amount of disturbance to potentially occupied LAPM habitat. Even with staying within the roadway, there is still a total of 0.02 acre of suitable LAPM habitat (disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub) located within Phase 1 (portion of Segment 8) of the proposed Project. In an effort to ensure that no direct impacts to LAPM species which may occupy this area of Segment 8 as a result from Project implementation, a relocation trapping survey will be conducted within this portion of Segment 8 prior to any ground disturbance in order to reduce impacts to the LAPM. Potential direct and indirect Phase 1 impacts to the LAPM will be mitigated by implementing **MM BIO-1**.

There is a total of 3.04-acres of suitable LAPM habitat (California buckwheat scrub, non-native grassland, chamise–coastal sage scrub, disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and San Gorgonio Wash) located within Phase 2 (Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0) of the proposed Project alignment. Since Phase 2 is currently unscheduled, in order to ensure that no direct impacts to LAPM species which may occupy Phase 2 areas occur, an additional LAPM survey can be performed prior to the construction of Phase 2 to determine if the species are absent. If no surveys are completed, the City can assume occupancy for LAPM and move forward with a relocation trapping survey to be conducted within Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0 prior to any ground disturbance in order to reduce impacts to the LAPM. The trapping and relocation survey and program similar to the one described in **MM BIO-1** will be implemented for Phase 2. **MM BIO-2** will ensure that Phase 2 potential direct and indirect impacts to the LAPM will be mitigated.

The majority of the Project Site, including all of Phase 1 segments, is not located within a predetermined Survey Area for the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) which is a CDFW SSC and a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC). The southern region of Segment "0" which is planned to occur in Phase 2, which may be pursued in the future, occurs within a predetermined Survey Area for the burrowing owl. Suitable burrowing owl foraging habitat is present within this region. Based on the presence of suitable habitat, focused MSHCP burrowing owl surveys are required to determine the presence, absence and status of the species within and adjacent to the southern Segment of "0" prior to initiating future phases of the project. A 30-day preconstruction survey will also be required immediately prior to the initiation of construction in this Segment to ensure protection for this species and compliance with the conservation goals as outlined in the MSHCP. Compliance with **MM BIO-3** will mitigate for potential impacts to burrowing owls associated with Segment "0" in Phase 2 of the project. No burrowing owl surveys are required per the MSHCP for Phase 1, since no suitable habitat is present.

No MSHCP riparian vegetation was documented within the Project alignments of either Phase 1 or 2. The two generally unvegetated reaches of the San Gorgonio River which the proposed pipeline alignment crosses (Segments 0 and 18) do not represent suitable habitat for the state and federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), state and federally listed endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) or federally listed threatened and state listed endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). The San Gorgonio River does, however, represent riverine habitat as described in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. **Figure 9** identifies the areas mapped as riverine (San Gorgonio Wash and disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub) within the Project alignments. The riverine function of the San Gorgonio River is to convey water, sediment during storm events. This River is an ephemeral system, which in large portions of the year remains dry. Since the new water pipeline will be placed in the disturbed areas of the existing access roads, the overall value and function of the San Gorgonio River will not be affected by the project.

The vegetation documented within the project area supports potential nesting habitat for common and sensitive passerine species. Because during construction there may be a need to trim vegetation along the roadways to accommodate construction equipment, there could be a potential to affect nesting birds. However, the project does plan to avoid the breeding season during construction, in order to avoid any impacts to any nesting birds. However, should the project not be able to avoid the nesting season, compliance with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as outlined in **MM BIO-4** shall be incorporated.

Therefore, implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4** will mitigate any potential direct or indirect impacts to any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Impacts will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

MM BIO-1: In an effort to ensure that no direct impacts to LAPM result from Project implementation of Phase 1 (portion of Segment 8) within a total of 0.02 acre of suitable LAPM habitat (disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub) (see **Figure 9**), a relocation trapping survey will be conducted within this portion of Segment 8. The relocation trapping effort will start by installing an exclusionary fence around the perimeter of the work area. The specific alignment, design and depth of the fencing will be determined by a monitoring biologist familiar with the species. Following installation of the fencing, a focused relocation trapping program will be conducted within the delineated work area. Specifically, a minimum of five (5) consecutive trap-nights will be implemented and will continue until no individuals have been detected for at least three (3) consecutive nights. Focused trapping efforts should be conducted when the species is generally active from May to October. If trapping must be conducted outside of this active season, confirmation of activity will be required by concurrently trapping areas where the species is known or has the highest likelihood of detection. If the species is not detected, trapping will be conducted during the active season. All individuals captured during the midnight or pre-sunrise check will be immediately relocated to suitable habitat in the vicinity of the trapping area. The qualified biological monitor will also be present during initial vegetation removal and excavation within the target trapping area to determine if any individuals have been overlooked and what if additional conservation measures are warranted.

Although, no other regions within Phase 1 are expected to be occupied (burrowing habitat) by the species, suitable burrowing habitat is located adjacent to the proposed alignment and indirect impacts may occur. Therefore, a biological monitor familiar with the species shall be

present if and when open trenches are present. All open trenches would be assessed each morning prior to work to ensure no species have inadvertently been captured. If captured, the monitoring biologist will determine the most effective way of capturing or allowing for the species to escape. The monitoring biologist will also be responsible for determining if additional conservation measures are warranted.

MM BIO-2: Since Phase 2 is currently unscheduled, in order to ensure that no direct impacts to LAPM species which may occupy Phase 2 areas occur, an additional LAPM survey can be performed prior to the construction of Phase 2. If a survey is not able to be conducted, the City can assume occupancy of LAPM and prepare a relocation trapping survey shall be conducted within Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0 prior to any ground disturbance in order to reduce impacts to the LAPM. By trapping and relocating any LAPM out of the construction area, this will reduce impacts for LAPM.

MM BIO-3: Based on the presence of suitable habitat within Phase 2, Segment 0, focused MSHCP burrowing owl surveys within this Segment will be required to determine the presence, absence and status of the species within and adjacent to the southern Segment of "0" prior to initiating future phases of the project. A report of the findings prepared by a qualified biologist shall be submitted to the City of Banning and County Environmental Programs Division for review and approval.

In addition to the focused surveys for burrowing owl, Segment 0 in Phase 2 will also require a 30-day burrowing owl preconstruction survey. The survey will be conducted immediately prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing construction to ensure protection for this species and compliance with the conservation goals as outlined in the MSHCP. The survey will be conducted in compliance with both MSHCP and CDFW guidelines. A report of the findings prepared by a qualified biologist shall be submitted to the City of Banning and County Environmental Programs Division for review and approval prior to any permit or ground disturbing activities.

If burrowing owls are detected onsite during the 30-day preconstruction survey, during the breeding season (February 1st to August 31st) then construction activities shall be limited to beyond 300 feet of the active burrows until a qualified biologist has confirmed that nesting efforts are competed or not initiated. In addition to monitoring breeding activity, if construction is proposed to be initiated during the breeding season or active relocation is proposed, a burrowing owl mitigation plan will be developed based on the County of Riverside Environmental Programs Division, CDFW and USFWS requirements for the relocation of individuals.

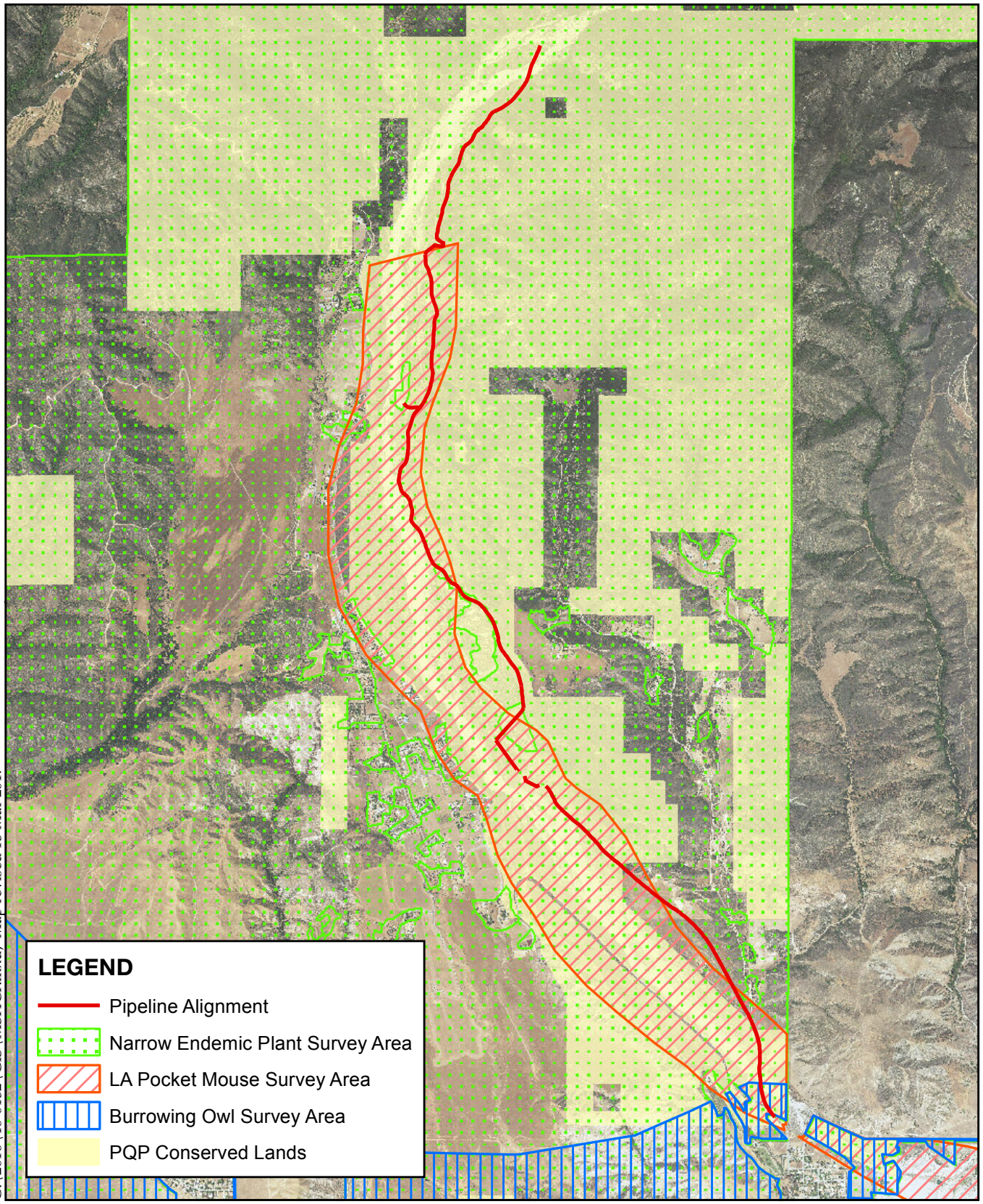
MM BIO-4: Should project construction of segments found in either Phase 1 or 2 not be able to avoid the nesting season, between February 1st and September 15th, a qualified biologist must conduct a nesting bird survey(s) no more than three (3) days prior to initiation of construction to document the presence or absence of nesting birds within or directly adjacent (100 feet) to the Project Site.

The survey(s) would focus on identifying any passerine or raptor nests that would be directly or indirectly affected by construction activities. If active nests are documented, species-specific measures shall be prepared by a qualified biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, grading in the vicinity of a nest shall be deterred until the young birds have fledged. A minimum exclusion buffer of 100 feet shall be maintained during

construction, depending on the species and location. The perimeter of the nest setback zone shall be fenced or adequately demarcated with stakes and flagging at 20-foot intervals, and construction personnel and activities restricted from the area. A survey report by a qualified biologist verifying that no active nests are present, or that the young have fledged, shall be submitted to the City of Banning for review and approval prior to initiation of construction in the nest-setback zone. The qualified biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur. A report of the findings prepared by a qualified biologist shall be submitted to the City of Banning for approval prior to initiating construction activities.

Any nest permanently vacated for the season would not warrant protection pursuant to the MBTA.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017



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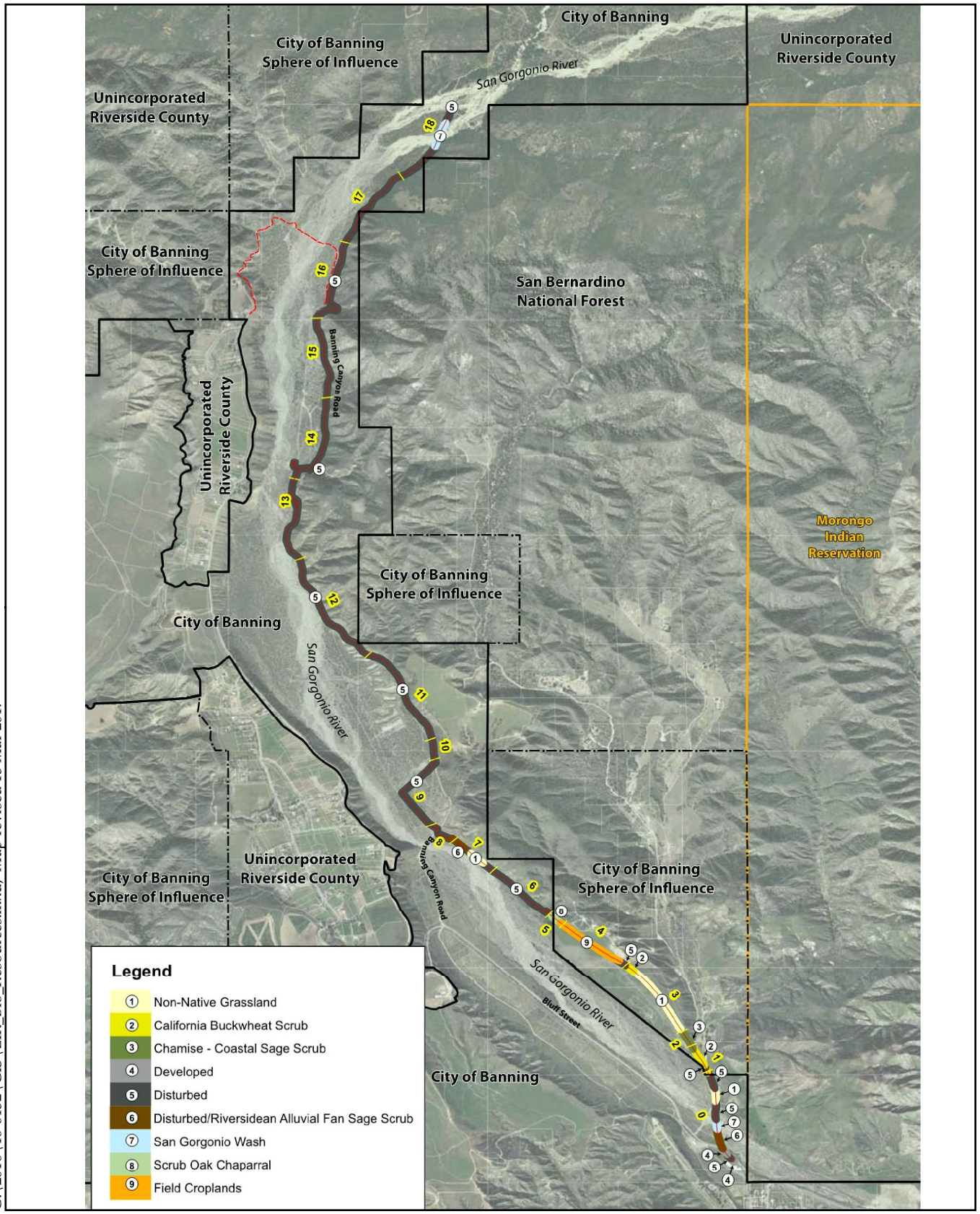
Sources: Riverside Co. MSHCP, adopted Oct., 2003; Riverside Co. GIS. 2017; USDA NAIP, 2014.

Figure 8 - MSHCP Relationship Map

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Bio_Resources.mxd; Map revised 13 Mar 2017

Source: Cadre Environmental, February, 2017

Not to Scale

Figure 9 - Biological Resources Map

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

According to Cadre Environmental's *General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis*, no riparian vegetation was documented on the Project site (**Figure 9** – Biological Resources Map). A single sensitive plant community was documented onsite including disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (RAFSS) (Heritage Rank G3 S3). The RAFSS on site is associated with the San Gorgonio River which the existing and planned pipeline run within and adjacent to. The RAFSS is considered a riverine resource per the MSHCP. Phase 1 of the project will impact 0.25 acres of riverine resources and Phase 2 would impact 0.98 acres. The riverine qualities within the project alignments are related to the fluvial processes of the San Gorgonio River and its ephemeral status. The San Gorgonio River exhibits seasonal flows, which means there are periods of little to no water within the River. The majority of the River supports RAFSS habitat.

The majority of the Phase 1 and 2 impacts will occur with the existing access road, and will not therefore affect the riverine or RAFSS areas. However, in some areas, there will need to be impacts to existing RAFSS within the riverine areas. However, these impacts are temporary, lasting typically a couple of weeks while the new pipeline is laid. The overall riverine functions of the San Gorgonio River will not be affected by the proposed project. Additionally, any vegetation removal of RAFSS will be replaced with like-species as required by **MM BIO-5**. Therefore, because the riverine resources in the project area will not be adversely affected by the project alignments, no impacts will occur and impacts are considered less than significant. Further, **MM BIO-5** will be implemented to reduce impacts associated with the RAFSS habitat.

Therefore, with implementation of **MM BIO-5**, any potential impacts related to any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

MM BIO-5: In order to reduce impacts associated with the RAFSS habitat within Phase 1 (Segment 8) and Phase 2 (Segments 0 and 18) as shown on **Figure 9**, the City shall have a biologist identify the species to be removed and provide replanting of the same or similar species after construction is completed.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017

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?

The USFWS is the principal Federal agency that provides information to the public on the extent and status of the Nation's wetlands. It has developed a series of maps, known as the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) to show wetlands and deep water habitat. This geospatial information is used by Federal, State, and local agencies, academic institutions, and private industry for management, research, policy development, education, and planning activities. The NWI program was neither designed nor intended to produce legal or regulatory products; therefore, wetlands identified by the NWI program are not the same as wetlands defined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The NWI Mapper was accessed online to review mapped wetlands

within the project study area. NWI wetlands are mapped as occurring throughout the study area. On-site NWI wetlands are shown on **Figure 10**.

According to the NWI, there are mapped wetlands within the San Gorgonio River and Banning Canyon. There is a Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland classified as a palustrine system forested class with a seasonally flooded water regime (PFOC) and another Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland classified as a palustrine system scrub-shrub class with a temporarily flooded water regime (PSSA) to the northern end of Phase 1 adjacent to Segments 13 and 14. Additionally, there are two Freshwater Pond wetlands (PUS) to the west of the proposed pipeline alignment Phase 2 adjacent to Segment 15. West of the southern portion of the proposed pipeline alignment in the San Gorgonio River, there is a Riverine wetland classified as a riverine, intermittent system streambed class with a temporarily flooded water regime (R4SBA) adjacent to Segments 1 through 7. There is an additional Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland classified as a palustrine system scrub-shrub class with a temporarily flooded water regime (PSSA) east of the Segment 0 and the southern end of the proposed pipeline alignment.

A project-specific Jurisdictional Delineation Report (Appendix C) was prepared for the Project. Onsite wetland determinations were performed on June 23, 2016 for the NWI-mapped wetlands located in Banning Canyon and the San Gorgonio River. Federally regulated wetlands were identified based on the *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region*. Additional data was recorded to determine if an area fulfilled the wetland criteria parameters. Three criteria must be fulfilled in order to classify an area as a wetland under the jurisdiction of the USACE: 1) a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation, 2) the presence of hydric soils, and 3) the presence of wetland hydrology.

On June 23, 2016, an onsite wetland determination was performed for the NWI mapped Riverine wetland classified as a riverine, intermittent system streambed class with a temporarily flooded water regime (R4SBA). Two secondary indicators of wetland hydrology were present in the form of sediment deposits and drainage patterns. The dominant vegetation was mule fat (FAC), rip-gut brome (Bromus diandrus) (UPL), and scale broom (FACU). Hydrophytic vegetation indicators were not found as the vegetation did not pass the dominance test or the prevalence index. The soil was composed of coarse sand and a restrictive layer of rocks was encountered within 10 inches of the surface. The soil contained no hydric soil indicators and therefore hydric soil was determined not to be present. In the absence of wetland vegetation and hydric soils, the area was determined not to be a federally-regulated wetland.

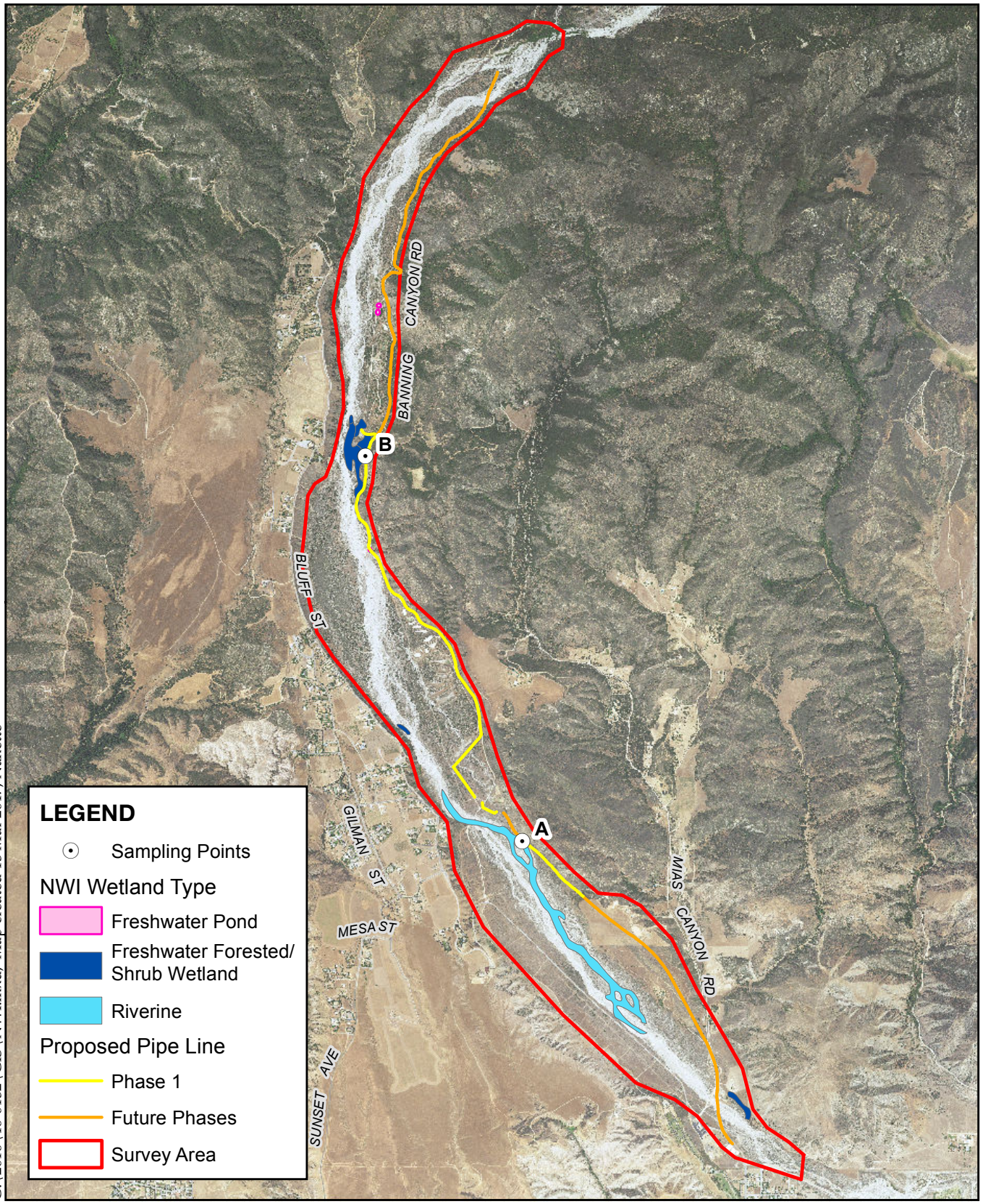
On June 23, 2016, an onsite wetland determination was performed on the border of the NWI mapped Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland classified as a palustrine system forested class with a seasonally flooded water regime (PFOC) and the NWI mapped Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland classified as a palustrine system scrub-shrub class with a temporarily flooded water regime (PSSA). Two secondary indicators of wetland hydrology were present in the form of drift deposits and drainage patterns. The dominant vegetation was blue elderberry (Sambucus cerulea) (UPL), tarragon (Artemisia dracunculus) (UPL), branching phacelia (Phacelia ramosissima) (FACU), and virgin's bower (Clematis ligusticifolia) (FAC). Hydrophytic vegetation indicators were not found as the vegetation did not pass the dominance test or the prevalence index. The soil was composed of a 7.5YR3/2 sandy loam with no redox features. The soil contained no hydric soil indicators and therefore hydric soil was determined not to be present. In the absence of wetland vegetation and hydric soils, the area was determined not to be a federally-regulated wetland.

The proposed pipeline alignment is confined to Banning Canyon Road where it is adjacent to all NWI mapped wetlands. Therefore, the pipeline alignment will not impact the NWI mapped wetlands. Additionally, no federally-regulated wetlands were identified within the proposed pipeline alignment. Therefore, the proposed Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The Project site was delineated to determine the extent of state and federal jurisdiction within the Project area potentially subject to regulation by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Section 401 of the CWA and Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. Portions of Phase 1 and Phase 2 will cross into USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdictional areas as defined in **Figure 11**. However, impacts to these areas will be temporary as the proposed Project involves a water pipeline that will be buried underground. As outlined in **MM BIO-6**, prior to the construction of Phase 1 and 2, appropriate permits would need to be secured from the USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW. Therefore, any potential impacts to jurisdictional areas including federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

MM BIO-6: Prior to construction of Phases 1 and 2, applicable permits shall be obtained for impacts to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdictional areas. Permits shall include measures to replace any vegetation removed during construction that is affiliated with the jurisdictional areas.

Source: USFWS; Jurisdictional Delineation Report prepared by Webb Associates, August 2016; General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\NWI.mxd; Map created 13 Mar 2017; Nanette

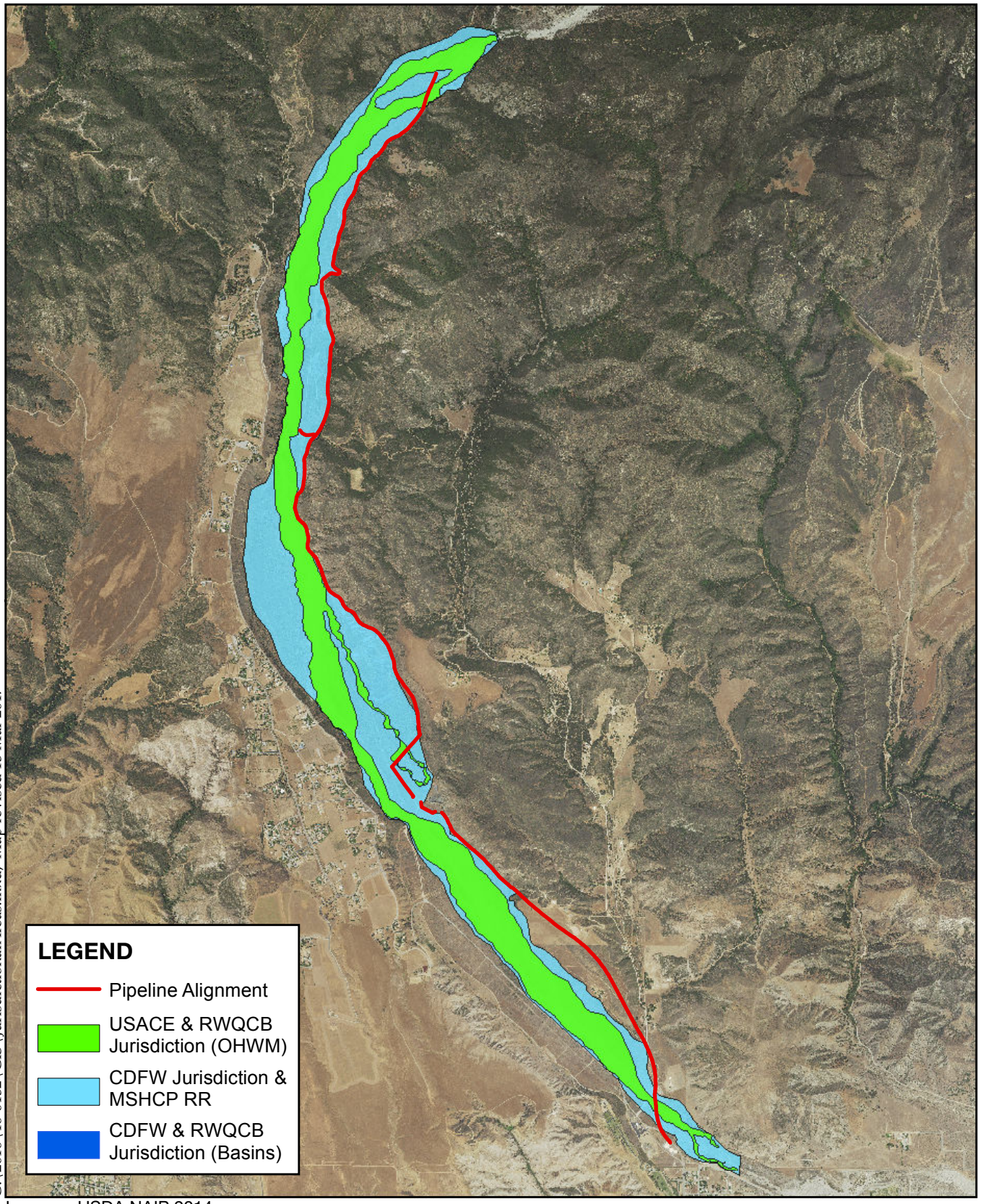
Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2016; USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, 2016; USDA NAIP, 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Figure 10 - NWI Mapped Wetlands

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\JurisdictionalAreas.mxd; Map revised 13 Mar 2017

Imagery: USDA NAIP 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Figure 11 - Jurisdictional Areas

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

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?

The Project alignment is located within an access road along the edge of the lower reach of the San Gorgonio River which serves as a regional wildlife corridor. The San Gorgonio River is located at the southern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains which drains southeast to the San Gorgonio Pass and Coachella Valley which is bound to the south by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains to the southwest. The Project Site is not located within a MSHCP designated core, extension of existing core, non-contiguous habitat block, constrained linkage, or linkage area.

The proposed project includes temporary impacts primarily within disturbed habitat (existing dirt road) and would not result in permanent direct or indirect impacts to wildlife movement within the San Gorgonio River. Therefore the proposed Project will have a **less than significant** impact in terms of interfering 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.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline mainly within an existing access road. No tree removal is planned as a part of the Project. According to the *General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis*, no oak or mature trees regulated by the City of Banning Municipal Codes were documented within or adjacent to the Project Site. Therefore, any impacts relating to conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources will be **less than significant**.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017

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?

According to the Cadre Environmental's *General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis* (Appendix B), the Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP – The Pass Area Plan. The Project Site is not located within a MSHCP criteria area cell, group, or linkage area. Therefore, no Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) or Joint Project Review (JPR) is required. With the exception of Segments 1 through 5, the project alignment is, however, located in lands that are designated as Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) per the MSHCP as shown on **Figure 8**. The PQP lands are those that are already conserved and subject to protection from development. The existing pipeline is already within the lands designated as PQP, and its operation and maintenance does not affect the ability of the PQP lands to provide conservation value to the MSHCP. The proposed replacement pipeline would also not affect the ability of the

PQP lands to provide conservation value. Therefore, although the project alignment is within PQP lands, it will not negatively affect those PQP lands. No PQP replacement is needed.

As identified in Cadre Environmental's *General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis* (Appendix B), the project is consistent with the MSHCP and would not affect the ability of the MSHCP to be implemented. The Project alignment for Phase 1 and 2 does not occur within a predetermined Survey Area for criteria area plant species per Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP; therefore, no surveys are required. The Project Site occurs completely within the Survey Area for narrow endemic plant species per Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, including Yucaipa onion and many-stemmed dudleya. Based on a lack of suitable soils and primarily disturbed condition of the Project Site, neither species is expected to be present; therefore, no surveys are required and the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.3. The Project Site is not within the Amphibian Species Survey Area; therefore, no additional surveys are required.

The majority of the Project Site occurs within a Survey Area for small mammals per Section 6.3.2 including for the LAPM. Phase 1 and 2 alignments are located in an area that would be considered suitable habitat for LAPM and LAPM are known to exist in the project area. Specifically, the species is expected to occur within the California buckwheat scrub, nonnative grassland, chamise–coastal sage scrub, disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and San Gorgonio River habitats. A total of 0.02 acre of suitable LAPM (disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub) is located within Phase 1 (portion of Segment 8) of the proposed Project (see **Figure 9**). This impact will occur despite all efforts to avoid suitable LAPM habitat by keeping the water pipeline within the existing access roads in already disturbed and unvegetated areas. In an effort to ensure that no direct impacts within this 0.02 acre area show on **Figure 9**, a relocation trapping survey will be conducted within this portion of Segment 8 prior to construction. Potential direct and indirect impacts to the Los Angeles pocket mouse will be mitigated by implementing **MM BIO-1**.

There is a total of 3.04-acres of suitable LAPM habitat (California buckwheat scrub, non-native grassland, chamise–coastal sage scrub, disturbed/Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and San Gorgonio Wash) located within Phase 2 (Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0) of the proposed Project alignment. Since Phase 2 is currently unscheduled, in order to ensure that no direct impacts to LAPM species which may occupy Phase 2 areas occur, an additional LAPM survey can be performed prior to the construction of Phase 2 to determine if the species are absent. If no surveys are completed, the City can assume occupancy for LAPM and move forward with a relocation trapping survey to be conducted within Segments 1, 2, 3, 16 and portion of 0 prior to any ground disturbance in order to reduce impacts to the LAPM. The trapping and relocation survey and program similar to the one described in **MM BIO-1** will be implemented for Phase 2. **MM BIO-2** will ensure that Phase 2 potential direct and indirect impacts to the LAPM will be mitigated.

Following implementation of **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-2**, LAPM mitigation measures, the project will be consistent with MSHCP Section 6.3.2.

The majority of the Project Site, including all of Phase 1 segments, is not located within the Survey Area for the burrowing owl per Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP; therefore, no surveys are required prior to initiating construction of Phase 1. The southern region of Segment "0", which is in the future Phase 2, occurs within a predetermined Survey Area for the burrowing owl. Suitable burrowing owl foraging habitat is present within this region. Based on the presence of suitable habitat, focused MSHCP burrowing owl surveys are required to determine the presence, absence and status of the species within and adjacent to the southern Segment of "0" prior to initiating

future phases of the project. A 30-day preconstruction survey will also be required immediately prior to the initiation of construction in this region to ensure protection for this species and compliance with the conservation goals as outlined in the MSHCP. Potential direct and indirect impacts to the burrowing owl will be mitigated by implementing **MM BIO-3.**

The project is consistent with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. No vernal pool resources were documented within the Project Site and the soils are not suitable for vernal pools given the rocky, alluvial soils found in the project area. No riparian vegetation was documented within the Project alignments of either Phase 1 or 2. The two generally unvegetated reaches of the San Gorgonio River which the proposed pipeline alignment crosses (Segments 0 and 18) do not represent suitable habitat for the state and federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), state and federally listed endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) or federally listed threatened and state listed endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). The San Gorgonio River does represent riverine habitat as described in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. **Figure 9** identifies the areas mapped as riverine within the project alignments. The riverine function of the San Gorgonio River is to convey water, sediment during storm events. This River is an ephemeral system, which in large portions of the year it remains dry. Since the new water pipeline will be placed in the disturbed areas of the existing access roads, the overall value and function of the San Gorgonio River will not be affected by the project.

The MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface guidelines presented in Section 6.1.4 are intended to address indirect effects associated with locating commercial, mixed uses and residential developments in proximity to a MSHCP Conservation Area. The majority of the Project Site is located within PQP conserved land. The temporary impacts associated with the proposed pipeline replacement project would not conflict with MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface guidelines. Therefore the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.4.

Implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4** will ensure the project is consistent with the MSHCP. Therefore, impacts relating to conflicting with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*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 archeological 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 dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Cultural Resource Discussion:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

A cultural resource literature and records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) was conducted on May 4, 2016 at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) for Phase 1 and 2 of the proposed alignment. Results of this search indicate that no less than 36 cultural resource investigations have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) between 1969 and 2015. Four of these studies involved 100 percent of the overall Project APE, including a report that conducted a preliminary study of the entire Banning water pipeline.

As a result of these and other similar studies, 124 cultural resources have been documented within a one-mile radius of the Project APE. The vast majority of these (n = 103) are built environment resources that consist of historical residences and other standing buildings in the City of Banning. Additional historical built-environment resources include power transmission and telecommunications lines, the Gilman Ranch, the St. Boniface Indian School and Cemetery, and the Barker/Rutherford Orchards. A total of 10 historical archaeological resources has been recorded within the record search area and include refuse scatters, water conveyance features, and two isolated artifacts (i.e., pipe fragment and can). Ten prehistoric archaeological resources have been documented within a one-mile radius and include seven bedrock milling sites, one lithic scatter, one ceramic and lithic scatter, and one isolated artifact (i.e., metate). Most of the prehistoric sites are located west of the Project area along the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. However, no cultural resources have been previously identified within the boundaries of the Phase 1 Project APE.

Of the resources noted above, only one historical archaeological site, CA-RIV-11412/P-33-022362, has been recorded within the Phase 2 Project alignment. The site was originally described in 2012 as a refuse scatter measuring 65 feet by 65 feet located in an ephemeral wash, but maintaining good integrity. Cultural materials recorded in the scatter include approximately 50 sanitary cans, china fragments, milk glass, two battery cores, one Purex bleach bottle, peach pit, and desert ware crockery dating to post 1945. The site was revisited in 2014 and only one sanitary can was observed. Due to the site's poor integrity, CA-RIV-11412/P-33-022362 was recommended to be ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

Additional sources consulted during the cultural resource literature and records search include: the NRHP; the Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility (ADOE); and the Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Directory (HPD). No eligible historic properties or significant historical resources have been recorded or listed within the Project APE. Additionally, no buildings or structures are noted within the Project APE on any of the historical maps consulted. It should be noted that the Barker/Rutherford Orchards (P-33-008342) is not eligible for the NRHP, but may be eligible under a local ordinance. This property is approximately 0.5 miles away from the Project alignment.

Two newly identified historical built-environment resources, the Banning Water Canyon Pipeline (*Æ*-3481-1H) and Banning Canyon Road (*Æ*-3481-2H), were found within the Project APE during an intensive pedestrian survey performed by Applied Earthworks on June 23, 2016. A historic-era

check dam was observed outside of the Project APE during the survey but was not formally recorded during the cultural resource survey as the resource is located well outside of the Phase 1 Project APE.

The segment of Banning Canyon Road situated in the Phase 1 APE is located within Banning Canyon along the eastern edge of the San Gorgonio River. It is an unimproved dirt access road that measures approximately 30 feet wide. Historic maps indicate that the road alignment has been in existence since 1901. The segment of the road is a well maintained dirt access road that lacks any historical features. It is among numerous dirt roads within the Banning Canyon area and has not achieved any recognition as an important alignment or thoroughfare. In addition, this road does not exhibit any architectural or engineering merits that would set it apart from the many similar roads in the region. Although the Banning Water Canyon pipeline appears eligible for listing in the NRHP and the CRHP for its association with the development of Banning, the Banning Canyon Road merely provided a support role in that event. The road itself is not significant in the history of the development of Banning. There is no evidence that this road is directly associated with any persons of recognized historical significance and it is not representative of the work of a prominent architect, designer, or builder, nor does it qualify as an important example of its type, period, region, or method of construction. Finally, since it does not have the potential to yield any information important to the study of our local, state, or national history, the Banning Canyon Road does not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, is not considered a “historic property” under Section 106 of the NHPA, or a “historical resource” under CEQA. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant as a result of Project construction and implementation.

A portion of the existing Banning Water Canyon Pipeline (*Æ*-3481-1H) is located within the Phase 1 Project APE. The pipeline follows the bed of the San Gorgonio River through Banning Canyon, and begins just east of Sing Road and ends south of where Mias Canyon Road crosses the wash. The pipeline currently consists of 24-in. diameter metal pipes with tension clamps to reinforce the seams where pipes are joined. Originally buried, several segments of the pipeline have been exposed due to erosion. The Banning Water Canyon Pipeline was originally identified in 2012 as a resource that warranted further investigation, but was not formally documented at the time. The establishment of the Banning Water Company and the pipeline were an integral component to the establishment and development of Banning. The establishment of this pipeline was a significant event in the history of Banning; therefore the pipeline appears to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A and the CRHR under Criterion 1. The property is significant on the local level, and the boundary is limited to the footprint of the resource. The period of significance is 1916, the year it was built.

The proposed Project involves installation of a new water transmission pipeline, adjacent to the existing
Banning Water Canyon Pipeline, this will be abandoned in place. Therefore, the Project has no potential to alter, destroy, relocate, or remove any features that contribute to the integrity or significance of the existing Banning Water Canyon Pipeline (*Æ*-3481-1H). Based on these considerations, the that the proposed Project will not cause an effect as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(i), or an adverse change to the integrity or significance of the Banning Water Canyon Pipeline (*Æ*-3481-1H) under CEQA. Therefore, impacts related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource will be **less than significant**.

Source: Cultural Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks, February 2017.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No prehistoric archaeological remains were encountered within the Phase 1 Project APE during the pedestrian survey. Furthermore, information obtained from the records search of the entire pipeline alignment indicates that all of the known prehistoric sites in the Project vicinity are concentrated across the wash, almost a half mile to the west along the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. While the lack of surface evidence of prehistoric archaeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence, the extant data suggest that this area is characterized by a relatively low level of cultural sensitivity. Results of the cultural resource survey also found that the Project APE is located within an extremely high-energy depositional environment; therefore, it is unlikely that any intact prehistoric subsurface archaeological deposits will be encountered within the Project APE during construction; however, implementation of **MM CR-1** and **MM CR-2** will ensure cultural sensitivity requests from the Morongo have been met.

In the event that potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during Phase 1 or 2 of the Project related ground-disturbing activities, all work must be halted in the vicinity of the archaeological discovery until a qualified archaeologist can visit the site of discovery and assess the significance of the archaeological site. Avoidance will be the primary goal should any archaeological resources be found.

Additionally, if the Project area is expanded to include areas not covered by this survey or other recent cultural resource studies, additional cultural resource studies may be required. In order to provide protection in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are unearthed during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR-3** will reduce potential impacts to **less than significant with mitigation**.

MM CR-1: Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the developer/permit applicant shall enter into an agreement with a Native American Monitor from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The Native American Monitor shall be on-site during all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, grading and trenching. The Native American Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources. If cultural and/or cultural resources are found during project construction then a Cultural Resources Management Plan shall be prepared by the project archaeologist in consultation with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The preferred method of disposition of any archaeological materials should use one of the following methods:

1) A fully executed reburial agreement with the appropriate culturally affiliated Native American tribe or band. This reburial area should be away from any future impacts. Reburial shall not occur until all cataloguing, analysis and special studies have been completed on the cultural resources. Details of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the Final Report.

2) Curation at a Riverside County Curation facility that meets federal standards per 36 CFR Part 79 and therefore will be professionally curated and made available to other archaeologists/researchers and tribal members for further study. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence shall be in the form of a letter from the curation

facility identifying that archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid.

3) If more than one Native American Group is involved with the project and cannot come to an agreement between themselves as to the disposition of cultural resources, the landowner(s} shall then proceed with curation of the cultural resources at the Western Science Center.

MM CR-2: A representative designated by the Morongo Tribe shall attend the pre-construction meeting with the contractors and shall provide a Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness Training for all Construction Personnel. Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event unanticipated cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. This is a mandatory training and all construction personnel must attend prior to beginning work on the project site.

MM CR-3: A qualified project archaeologist shall be on site during all ground-disturbing activities for Phase 1 and 2. In the event that potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during Project related ground-disturbing activities, all ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted and the applicant shall call the project archaeologist immediately upon discovery of the cultural resource. A meeting shall be convened between the developer, the project archaeologist, the Native American tribal representative (or other appropriate ethnic/cultural group representative), to discuss the significance of the find. At the meeting with the aforementioned parties, a decision is to be made, with the concurrence of the project archaeologist, as to the appropriate treatment (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resource. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until the appropriate treatment has been accomplished.

Source: Cultural Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks, March 2017.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

According to the Riverside County GIS database, the proposed Project is located within paleontological sensitivity areas of low potential and High “A” Sensitivity. The High “A” Sensitivity designation is based on geologic formations or mappable rock units that contain fossilized body elements, and trace fossils such as tracks, nests, and eggs. These fossils occur on or below the surface. The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline, mostly within an existing access road. However, during construction, paleontological resources could be unexpectedly encountered. **MM CR-3** will ensure that impacts to paleontological resources at the Project site are less than significant in the event of accidental discovery. Therefore, any potential impacts will be reduced to a **less than significant level with mitigation** incorporated.

MM CR-4: In order to avoid impacting unknown significant paleontological resources during Project construction, a Paleontological Resource Mitigation Plan (PRMP), consistent with Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard guidelines for the mitigation of construction-related adverse impacts on paleontological resources, shall be prepared and enforced during Project construction.

Source: RC GIS

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

The proposed Project site is not located on any known cemetery. If human remains are encountered during Project construction on federal lands, the following protocol must be adhered to. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), as implemented by 43 CFR Sections 10.4–10.6, presents the procedures for the treatment of human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony located on federal land. As the lead federal agency on the Project, the BLM should be notified immediately. The BLM will be responsible for government-to-government consultation with affected Native American Tribes concerning all potential NAGPRA issues.

If human remains are encountered during Project construction in a location other than a dedicated cemetery on non-federal lands, the steps and procedures specified in Health and Safety Code §7050.5, State CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(d), and PRC §5097.98 must be implemented. Specifically, in accordance with PRC §5097.98, the Riverside County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours of the discovery of potentially human remains. The Coroner must then determine within two working days of being notified if the remains are subject to his or her authority. If the Coroner recognizes the remains to be Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours, in accordance with PRC §5097.98. The NAHC then designates a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) with respect to the human remains within 48 hours of notification. The MLD will then have the opportunity to recommend to the Project proponent means for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and associated grave goods within 24 hours of notification. Even though the proposed Project is not a known cemetery, during construction, human remains could be unexpectedly encountered. **MM CR-4, which will require compliance with PRC 5097.98** will ensure that if human remains are found the Project site, they are treated in accordance with the above referenced guidelines MM CR-4. Therefore, with adherence to existing laws and codes, impacts will be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

MM CR-5: In the event of discovery of human remains, the landowner shall comply with Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and Public Resource Code §5097.98 which will identify the process of notification to the tribes and the Coroner as well as how the remains will be treated if they are identified as Native American. The landowner shall notify the City in the even human remains are found and identified as Native American so that the City can ensure PRC§5097.98 has been followed.

Source: Cultural Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks, March 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*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:				
i. 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iv. Landslides or mudflows?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or 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 on- or off-site 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 waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Geology and Soils Discussion:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

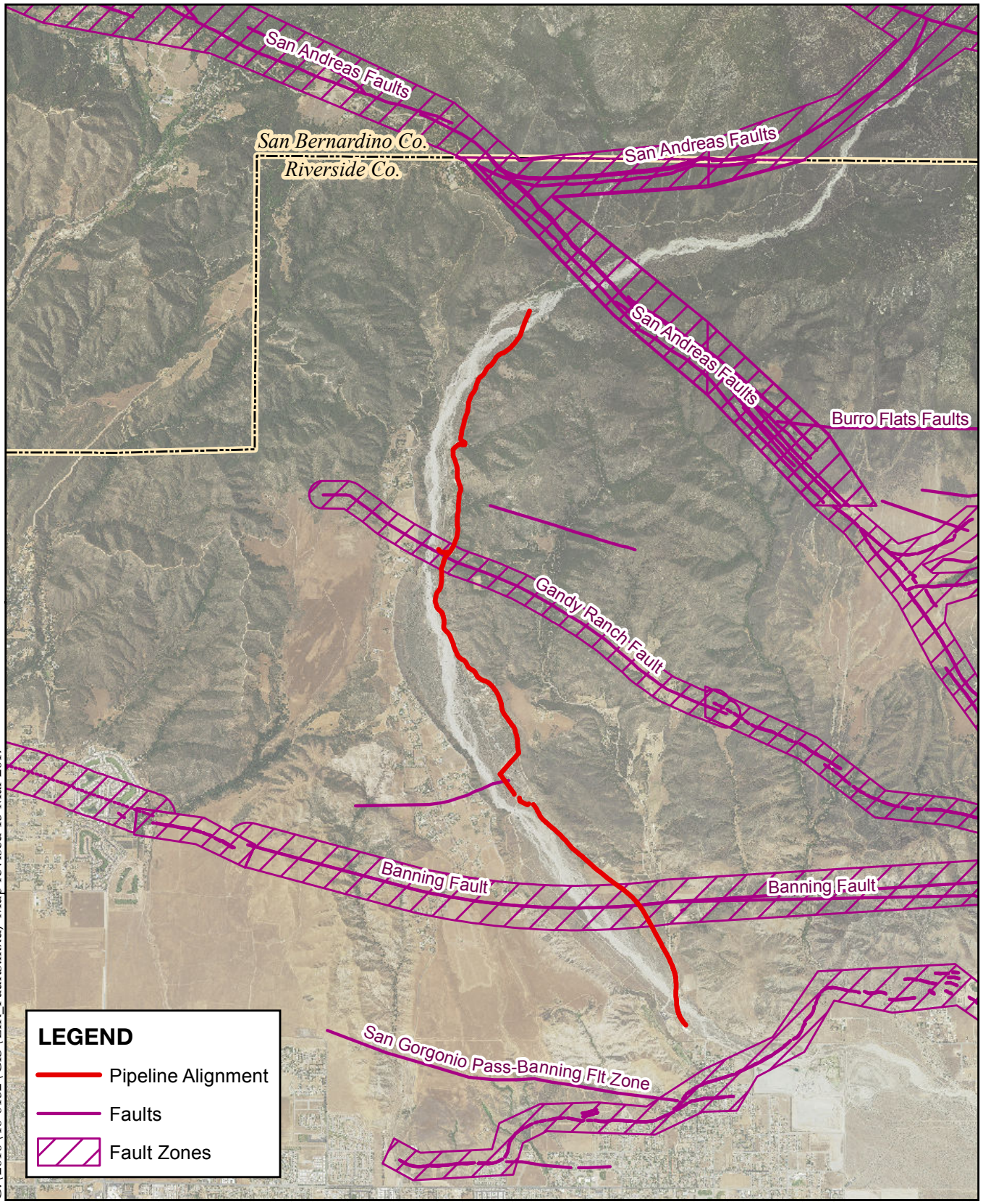
The City of Banning lies at the boundary of two tectonic plates (the Pacific Oceanic Plate and the North American Continental Plate), which slide past one another in a horizontal displacement (in a relative right-lateral motion), creating the San Andreas Fault system.

An Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Hazard Zone (closest would be the San Andreas Fault Zone) is not located within the proposed Project site, but is approximately 0.4 miles to the north of

Segment 18 of the proposed Project alignment in Phase 2. According to the City's GP, there are two County Fault Zones which bisect the Project site as shown on **Figure 12 – Faults within the Project Area**. The Banning Fault cuts across the proposed pipeline alignment between Well 3 and Well 4. The Gandy Ranch Fault bisects the proposed pipeline alignment in the area of Well 7.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline; the existing pipeline will remain in place and no removal is planned. Although the proposed pipeline would be subject to seismic activity from faults located in the vicinity, no habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving earthquake rupture are proposed. The Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, and Unreinforced Masonry Law are the primary tools used by local agencies to ensure seismic safety in structures. Since the Project is replacing old facilities with the latest piping standards, the risk of impacts from a rupture will be reduced due to the update to the current standards. In the event of a major earthquake and associated pipeline rupture, the water released would flow to the lowest point which would be the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Adherence to all applicable federal and state codes and regulations will reduce potential impacts related to rupture of a known earthquake fault to a **less than significant** level.

Source: GP Exhibit V-3 – Faults and Fault Zones; GP DEIR Exhibit III-13 – Faults and Fault Zones; RC GIS



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Faults.mxd; Map revised 13 Mar 2017

Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2016; San Bernardino Co. GIS, 2011; USDA NAIP, 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet

Figure 12 - Faults within the Project Area

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Given its physical and geologic location, the Banning area is susceptible to potential intense seismic ground shaking. The effects of ground motion on structures are difficult to predict, and depend on the intensity of the quake, the distance from the epicenter to the site, the composition of soils and bedrock, building design, and other physical criteria. Based on these factors, ground shaking may cause no, little, or major structural damage or destruction; however, in general, peak ground accelerations and seismic intensity values decrease with increasing distance from the causative fault.

The proposed Project involves replacement of an existing water pipeline. No habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking are proposed. The Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, and Unreinforced Masonry Law are the primary tools used by local agencies to ensure seismic safety in structures. Adherence to all applicable federal and state codes and regulations will reduce potential impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking to a **less than significant** level.

Source: GP DEIR

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction commonly occurs in loose, saturated, sandy sediments that are subjected to ground vibrations greater than 0.2 g. When liquefaction occurs, the sediments involved have a substantial loss of shear strength. During liquefaction, the involved soils behave like a liquid or semi-viscous substance and can result in structural distress or failure due to ground settlement, a loss of load-bearing capacity in foundation soils, and the buoyant rise of buried structures. According to the City's GP Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) Exhibit III-14 – Liquefaction Susceptibility, the proposed Project is within an area with moderate susceptibility to liquefaction.

Prior to construction of proposed Project, site specific Geotechnical Investigations will be prepared to assess the geology and soils present and any hazards associated with the site conditions. **MM GEO-1** and compliance with recommendations from the site project specific Geotechnical Investigation will reduce hazards associated with liquefaction to a **less than significant impact with mitigation**.

> **MM GEO-1**: Prior to construction of the Project, a site specific Geotechnical Report will be prepared and submitted to the City Engineer for approval. Recommendations identified in the site specific Geotechnical Report regarding the potential for seismic hazards, landsliding, mudflows, and unstable or expansive soils, including appropriate construction measures, will be incorporated into the project designs to minimize the potential for damage to Project facilities.

Source: GP Exhibit V-4 – Liquefaction Susceptibility; GP DEIR Exhibit III-14 – Liquefaction Susceptibility

iv) Landslides or mudflows?

Strong ground motions can result in landslides, rock slides and rock falls, particularly where saturated ground conditions exist. During an earthquake, groundwater conditions have an

influence in the development of seismically induced slope failures, as well as landslides and mudflows.

The proposed Project is within an area of mostly low and moderate seismically induced settlement and slope instability, though known landslides have occurred within the area. Prior to construction of proposed Project, site specific Geotechnical Investigations will be prepared to assess the geology and soils present and any hazards associated with landslides or mudflows. **MM GEO-1** and compliance with recommendations from the site specific Geotechnical Investigation will reduce hazards associated with landslides or mudflows to a **less than significant impact with mitigation**.

Source: GP Exhibit V-2 – Seismically Induced Settlement and Slope Instability; GP DEIR Exhibit III-15 – Seismically Induced Settlement and Slope Instability

b) Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The proposed Project involves replacement of a water pipeline that will be buried underground and will not involve substantial changes in topography or unstable soil conditions. Rather, the replacement water pipeline is needed because the existing water pipeline has been subject to erosion and exposed in several places causing risk to the pipeline. Construction activities may lead to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, however, implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level. Since the proposed Project involves utility trench excavations in slope areas, **MM GEO-2** will reduce any potential impacts from unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill to a **less than significant level with mitigation**.

MM GEO-2: The Project pipeline segments under Phase 1 and 2 shall be constructed pursuant to the following mitigation measure contained in the City's GP DEIR, Geotechnical Element. Utility trench excavations in slope areas or within the zone of influence of structures should be properly backfilled order to prevent erosion or other instability issues related to trenching during construction in accordance with the following recommendations:

(a) Pipes shall be bedded with a minimum of 6 inches of pea gravel or approved granular soil. Similar material shall be used to provide a cover of at least 1 foot over the pipe. This backfill shall then be uniformly compacted by mechanical means or jetted to a firm and unyielding condition.
(b) Remaining backfill may be fine-grained soils. It shall be placed in lifts not exceeding 6 inches in thickness or as determined appropriate, watered or aerated to near optimum moisture content, and mechanically compacted to a minimum of 90% of the laboratory maximum density.
(c) Pipes in trenches within 5 feet of the top of slopes or no the face of slopes shall be bedded and backfilled with pea gravel or approved granular soils as described above. The remainder of the trench backfill shall comprise typical on-site fill soil mechanically compacted as described in the previous paragraph.

Source: Project Description; GP DEIR

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 on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Impacts related to landslides are addressed in 6a.iv) above; impacts related to liquefaction are addressed in 6a.iii) above. This analysis addresses impacts related to unstable soils, as a result of lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse:

While subsidence and lateral spreading has not been observed in Banning, the most populated part of the City occurs in an area with geologic conditions vulnerable to ground subsidence. At present, the City relies on groundwater for its water supply. The alluvial sediments within the groundwater basins from the City's water is withdrawn are subject to subsidence if rapid groundwater extraction occurs in response to increase water demands as a result of population growth or a prolonged drought.

Prior to construction of proposed Project, site specific Geotechnical Investigations will be prepared to assess the geology and soils present and any hazards associated with the site conditions. **MM GEO-1** and compliance with recommendations from the site project specific Geotechnical Investigation will reduce hazards associated with unstable soils to a **less than significant impact with mitigation**.

Source: GP DEIR

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?

Expansive soils are those that contain significant amount of clay particles that have a high shrink (dry) and swell (wet) potential. The upward pressures induced by the swelling of expansive soils under moist condition, can have harmful effect upon structures. In Banning, expansive soils are primarily associated with areas underlain by older fan deposits containing argillic (clay-rich) soil profiles, which are in the moderately expansive range. Since the low-lying areas of the City are underlain by alluvial fan sediments that are composed primarily of granular soils, the expansion potential ranges from very low to moderately low.

Prior to construction of proposed Project, site specific Geotechnical Investigations will be prepared to assess the geology and soils present and any hazards associated with the site conditions. **MM GEO-1** and compliance with recommendations from the site project specific Geotechnical Investigation will reduce hazards associated with expansive soils to a **less than significant impact with mitigation**.

Source: GP DEIR

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline, therefore no septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would be required. Thus, there will be **no impact** in terms of having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

Source: Project Description

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Discussion:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

The AQ/GHG Analysis prepared by WEBB estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from fuel usage by construction equipment and construction-related activities, such as construction worker trips, for the Project. Evaluation of the **Table 7.1** below indicates that an estimated 96.41 $MTCO_2E$ will occur from Phase 1 construction equipment over the course of the estimated construction period.

Table 7.1 – Phase 1 Construction Equipment GHG Emissions

Year	Metric Tons per year (MT/yr)			
	Total CO_2	Total CH_4	Total N_2O	Total CO_2E
2017	82.70	0.02	0.00	83.06
2018	13.29	0.00	0.00	13.35
Total	**95.99**	**0.02**	**0.00**	**96.41**
Amortized				**3.21**

The Project involves the construction of a replacement water pipeline. Long-term emissions would primarily be in the form of mobile source emissions, since no stationary sources of emission are present. Since the only operational mobile source would be from infrequent maintenance vehicles (one vehicle, 1 to 5 times per week), mobile operational emissions will be negligible. Therefore, GHG emissions will mainly occur from Project construction.

Unlike the criteria air pollutants discussed above, GHGs do not have adopted significance thresholds at this time. Several agencies, at various levels, have proposed draft GHG significance thresholds for use in CEQA documents. SCAQMD has been working on GHG thresholds for development projects. In December 2008, the SCAQMD adopted a threshold of 10,000 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2E$/yr) for stationary source projects where SCAQMD is the lead agency. The most recent draft proposal was in September 2010 and included significance thresholds for residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects at 3,500, 1,400, and 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr, respectively. Alternatively, a lead agency has the option to use 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr as a threshold for all non-industrial projects. Although both options are recommended by SCAQMD, a lead agency is advised to use only one option and to use it consistently. The SCAQMD significance thresholds also evaluate construction emissions by amortizing them over an expected project life of 30 years.

The proposed Project does not fit into the categories provided (industrial, commercial, and residential) in the draft thresholds from SCAQMD. The Project's emissions were compared to whichever threshold is more conservative. Since the draft SCAQMD GHG threshold Guidance document released in October 2008 recommends that construction emissions be amortized for a project lifetime of 30 years to, the total GHG emissions from Project construction were amortized and are below the lowest SCAQMD recommended screening level of 1,400 $MTCO_2E$/yr for commercial projects. Due to the lack of adopted emissions thresholds, the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction and negligible operational emissions from infrequent maintenance vehicles, Phase 1 of the proposed Project will not generate GHG emissions that exceed any draft screening thresholds. Phase 1 emissions for the Project will not exceed the draft GHG screening threshold recommended by SCAQMD.

The future Phase 2 is expected to have similar emissions since the disturbance area will be similar, at approximately 150 feet of pipeline per day, and no additional or different equipment is expected to be used during the future Phase 2 construction. Since the only significant source of GHG emissions from the Project will be from construction, construction emissions are amortized, and Phase 1 emissions are far below the lowest SCAQMD recommended screening level, the future Phase 2 GHG emissions, while ultimately higher due to a longer construction period, are expected to be similar and would not exceed any draft screening thresholds. Additionally, since Phase 2 would occur in the future, there is a high likelihood that emissions will go down over time with better technologies and equipment being used in the construction process.

Since Phase 1 and 2 of the proposed Project will not exceed any SCAQMD draft screening thresholds, the Project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: AQ/GHG Analysis, August 2016

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

As described in a) above, the proposed Project will not generate greenhouse emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. Additionally, the City of Banning participated in the development of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) Subregional Climate Action Plan (CAP). The proposed Project involves replacement of an old, damaged, and leaking existing water pipeline. Replacement of this pipeline will help to increase water conservation by fixing leaks, which is in line with the goals of the WRCOG Subregional CAP. Therefore, the proposed Project does not conflict with any regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and any impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Source: AQ/GHG Analysis; WRCOG CAP

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
VIII. 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Discussion:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Construction of the proposed Project may include the transportation and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels for the construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. The Project is not expected to create the need for an excess of hazardous materials being used on site for construction.

A number of federal and state agencies prescribe strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Hazardous material transport, storage and response to upsets or accidents are primarily subject to federal regulation by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety in accordance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal

Regulations. California regulations applicable to Hazardous material transport, storage and response to upsets or accidents are codified in Title 13 (Motor Vehicles), Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Management of Hazardous Waste), Title 26 (Toxics) of the California Code of Regulations, and the Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory).

Compliance with all applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use, storage and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets and accidents during transit and storage. Additionally, the project is not expected to result in the use of large amounts of hazardous materials that would create a hazard to the public or environment. Therefore, potential impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Source: Health and Safety Code; CCR; Code of Federal Regulations

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?

As noted in response 8a above, the Project may involve the use of hazardous materials but shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to the transport, use, disposal, handling, and storage of hazardous materials, including but not limited to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Title 13, (motor vehicles) Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Health and Safety Code), Title 26 (Toxics) of the California Code of Regulations, and Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory), which describes strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Compliance with all applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use and storage of hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of accidents during transit, use and storage to a **less than significant impact**.

Source: Health and Safety Code; CCR; Code of Federal Regulations

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The proposed Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The closest school is Hoffer Elementary School which is approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the proposed Project site. Therefore, there will be **no impact** in terms of emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

Source: Google Earth

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?

Per a review of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database, the proposed Project is located adjacent to the Mais Canyon site (80000127), a Military Evaluation Cleanup Site. The site is classified as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and the cleanup oversight agency is the DTSC Site Cleanup Program – Lead. The past uses that caused

contamination and potential contaminants of concern are not specified. The cleanup status of the site is inactive and needs evaluation as of July 1, 2005. This site is not anticipated to cause a hazard to the project.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that is not on a site that is included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and as a result would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Any potential impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Source: DTSC

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?

The proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan and is located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of the Banning Municipal Airport. As such, the proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area. **No impact** will occur in this regard.

Source: Google Earth

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?

The proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and as such will have **no impact** on exposing people residing or working in the Project area to safety hazards in that regard.

Source: Google Earth

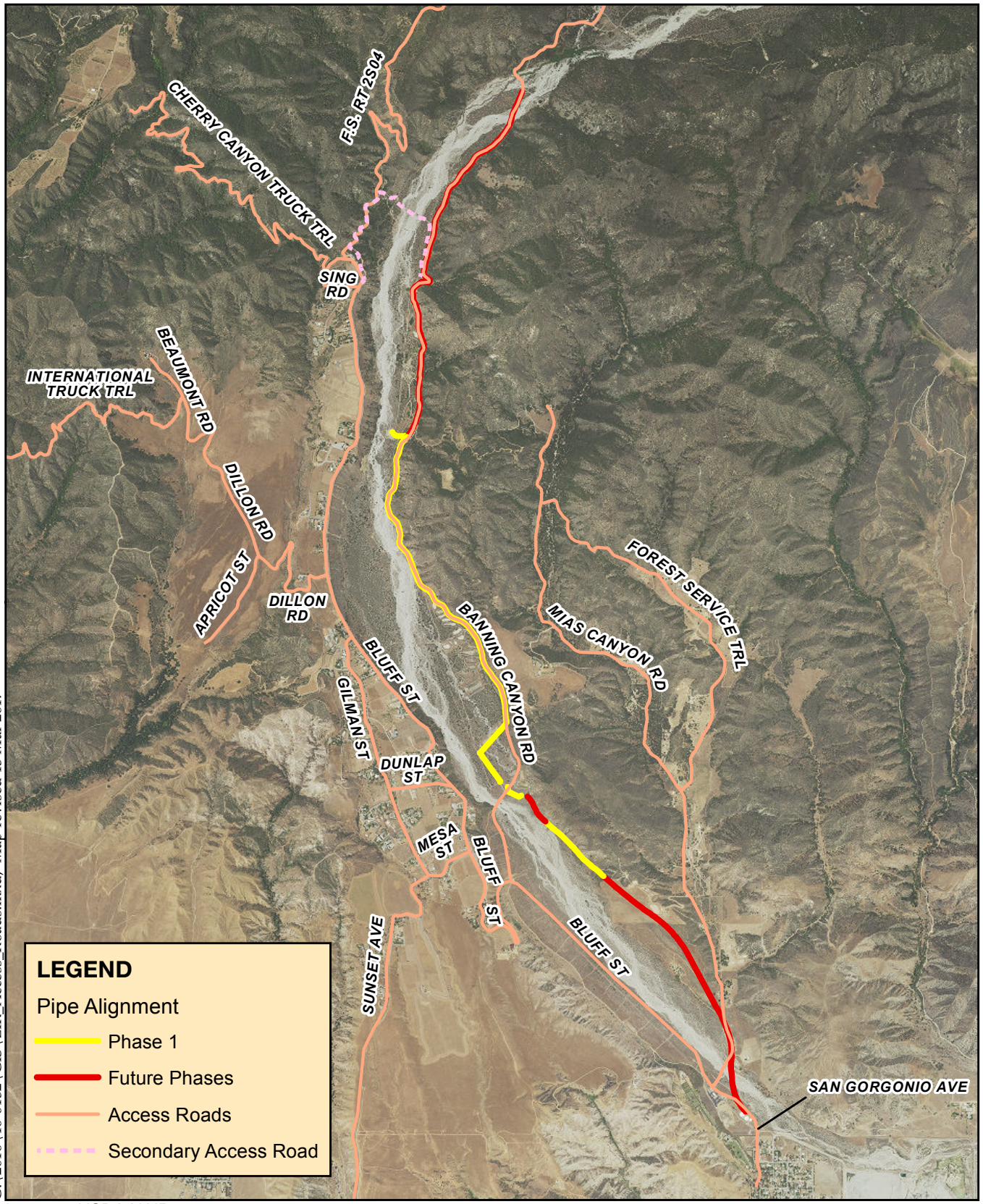
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The City adopted the Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guidance document in 1996. The document is organized into three-parts, which include: 1) the Banning Emergency Plan; 2) twelve functional Annexes that describe the emergency response organization; and 3) a listing of operational data such as resources, key personnel, and essential facilities and contacts. The City's plan was used until Riverside County adopted their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Riverside County Operational Area (OA) EOP, adopted in 2006, addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies in or affecting Riverside County. The proposed Project includes replacement of an existing water pipeline and would not conflict with this plan.

According to the City's GP, the City does not have established evacuation routes, although depending on the location and extent of an emergency, major surface streets could be utilized to route traffic through the City. Phase 1 and 2 are located north of the City's population center within an existing access road that does provide emergency access to the US National Forest lands and other properties and facilities. Construction of the pipeline will affect the accessibility of this access roadway for the period during construction. However, there are secondary access points and other roadways that can offer access to the National Forest and other properties as depicted

on **Figure 13**. The proposed Project site is not located adjacent to any freeways or major surface streets within the City. Therefore, any impacts related to the interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan for the City will be **less than significant**.

Source: EOP; GP – Public Services and Facilities



G:\2016\16-0132\GIS\EIR_Access_Roads.mxd; Map revised 13 Mar 2017

Imagery: USDA NAIP 2014.

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Figure 13 - Access Roads and Secondary Access Roads within the Project Area

City of Banning Water Canyon Project

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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?

The proposed Project is located within a Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ) in both a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and a State Responsibility Area (SRA). The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground. Since the proposed Project area is within an open space area with vegetation along the access road, there will be an increased potential for ignition during construction and maintenance-related activities. Examples of ignition sources include sparks from welding or from metal striking metal or stone, which could ignite surrounding vegetation, parking vehicles over dry vegetation, where hot undercarriages could ignite grass or shrubs, and improperly discarded smoking materials. The proposed pipeline will be constructed of materials that do not require welding or fire sources which could increase the risk of fire. Staging areas where equipment and vehicles will be parked will be in areas that are already cleared of vegetation and which do not represent a risk from vehicles igniting vegetation by accident.

The proposed Project is adequately served by the Riverside County Fire Department, which in turn contracts with the California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE). Preparation and implementation of a Fire Management Plan for construction and maintenance activities as outlined in **MM HAZ-1** would mitigate any potential impacts due to exposure of people to a significant risk of injury or death. Therefore, potential impacts will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

> **MM HAZ-1**: A Project-specific fire prevention plan for both construction and operation of the project shall be prepared by the City and submitted to CAL FIRE and the Riverside County Fire Department for review prior to initiation of construction. The City shall fully implement the Plan during all construction and maintenance activities.

Source: CAL FIRE; RC GIS; GP – Public Services and Facilities; GP DEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
IX. 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 a watercourse or wetland, in a manner which would	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
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 on or off site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Hydrology and Water Quality Discussion:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Water quality standards would be affected by the project discharging sediment or other construction materials during construction. Activities associated with the construction of Phase 1 and 2 of the proposed Project would include excavation and site preparation, which may have the potential to release pollutants (e.g., oil from construction equipment) and silt off-site which could impact water quality. However, regardless of which Phase is implemented, the City will be required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) pursuant to the statewide General Construction Permit (NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002, Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, adopted September 2, 2009 and effective as of July 2, 2010) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for construction projects. Compliance with the SWPPP in combination with existing regulations will result in a less than significant impact with regard to violation of water quality standards.

After each construction phase has been completed, the new pipeline will need to be flushed and disinfected in order to transfer the water supply for public safety. Any new pipeline segments above the existing percolation basins onsite will divert flushed water to these basins. The remainder of flushed water will flow to the lowest point which is the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Flushed water will be discharged in accordance with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee. Most MS4 discharges from the City infiltrate. Rarely and only during significant runoff events, storm drainage may flow as far as the

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) infiltration basins near the City of Palm Springs. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm to ensure infiltration. **MM HYD-1** will be implemented which would ensure compliance with water quality standards. Therefore, impacts are considered **less than significant with mitigation**.

> **MM HYD-1**: To ensure compliance with water quality standards, the City shall obtain authorization from the RWQCB prior to the discharge of any flushed water onsite and comply with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm to ensure infiltration.

Source: Project Description; MS4

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)?

The City of Banning overlies the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin. The San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin includes five hydraulically-connected groundwater storage units, which constitute the City of Banning groundwater resource area: the Banning Storage Unit, the Banning Bench Storage Unit, the Banning Canyon Storage Unit, the Cabazon Storage Unit, and the Beaumont Storage Unit. Groundwater recharge to the Banning area is obtained from precipitation infiltrating into the ground within the surface water catchments and particularly in the canyons north of the City. An additional source of recharge is subsurface inflow (i.e. underflow) from storage unit to storage unit, infiltration of Whitewater River diversions in the Banning Canyon, and from infiltration of treated wastewater into the Cabazon Storage Unit. The Banning Canyon area receives water from the infiltration of canyon flows through the gravelly soils of the canyon bottom. The San Gorgonio River running southerly through the Banning Canyon provides intake areas for distributing water to spreading ditches that interconnect with spreading ponds located approximately one mile north of the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration.

The Banning Canyon Storage Unit is the largest storage unit within the City of Banning. The total surface area of the Storage Unit is approximately 1,058 acres or 1.7 square miles. The primary surface water drainage feature within this storage unit is the San Gorgonio River. The canyon bottom comprises alluvium and the canyon sides are bedrock. The City currently operates eight active production wells with a total capacity of approximately 8,600 gpm. Most of the City of Banning's groundwater is produced from the aquifer within this storage unit. Additional recharge occurs through the operation of diversion of surface water from the upper reaches of the Whitewater River Drainage into Banning Canyon (Banning Canyon Storage Unit), which was initiated in 1913. The diverted water flows along steep mountain slopes for approximately 14 miles in a mostly concrete-lined conveyance system known as "The Flume". Banning Heights Mutual Water Company utilizes approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Whitewater River diversions, the remainder of the diverted water flows into the San Gorgonio River below the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company extraction point. A portion of the natural runoff and the Whitewater River diversions are diverted into spreading ponds located adjacent to the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration. The safe yield of the Banning Canyon Storage Unit was estimated in 2011 to be 4,070 AFY.

According to the City's 2015 UWMP, although Southern California has experienced severe drought conditions since 2011, the City has not experienced any actual supply deficiencies due to its reliance on local groundwater sources. The City does not have an immediate concern with water supply reliability. Because the City's water supply is primarily groundwater, the City is not subject to short-term water shortages resulting from temporary dry weather conditions. Further, as part of the Beaumont Basin adjudication, the City has the option of storing up to 80,000 acre feet of water in the Beaumont Basin. At the end of calendar year 2014, City of Banning had 46,774 AF of water available in Beaumont Basin storage.

The City purchases imported State Water Project water (SWP) supplies for replenishment of the groundwater from the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), a State Water Contractor. Continuous availability of SWP allocations will require complete development of the SWP, which currently is unable to meet maximum Table A amount obligations during the current drought. Available water supplies are being further threatened by new and increasing constraints on the development of new water supply facilities and on the operation of existing facilities. However, although the City may expect variable reliability in availability of SWP water, such water is not its primary source of water for the City, and short-term declines in SWP water availability would be offset by the City's substantial reserves of stored groundwater and would not result in a substantial impact to the City's water supply.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of the water pipeline which utilizes groundwater below the San Gorgonio River which is extracted from a number of wells already existing along the project alignment. No new wells will be constructed as a part of the Project; existing water wells that support the water line will remain on line and unaffected by the Project. The proposed Project will convey the existing supply of water and not 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. The new pipeline is being proposed to provide a more reliable and protected method of delivery of the water pumped from the existing wells; production rates will not be affected by the project. Therefore, any potential impacts related to groundwater supplies or recharge will be **less than significant**.

Source: Project Description; Banning UWMP

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a watercourse or wetland, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline within an existing access road. The proposed Project was designed to minimize the impacts to the San Gorgonio River by moving the existing water pipeline to an access road, where feasible, as portions of the existing water pipeline are buried in the riverbed. Because the pipeline will be buried underground and any potential erosion or siltation as a result of construction will be addressed by the SWPPP, impacts from the alteration of the existing drainage pattern will be **less than significant**.

Source: Project Description

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 on or off site?

As discussed in 9 c) above, the proposed pipeline replacement was designed to minimize the impacts to the San Gorgonio River by moving the existing water pipeline to an access road, where feasible, as portions of the existing water pipeline were buried in the riverbed. Additionally, the pipeline will be buried underground and any potential surface runoff as a result of construction will be addressed by the SWPPP.

After construction has been completed, the new pipeline will need to be flushed and disinfected in order to transfer the water supply for public safety. Any new pipeline segments above the existing percolation basins onsite will divert flushed water to these basins. The remainder of flushed water will flow to the lowest point which is the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Flushed water will be discharged in accordance with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee. Most MS4 discharges from the City infiltrate. Rarely and only during significant runoff events, storm drainage may flow as far as the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) infiltration basins near the City of Palm Springs. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm to ensure infiltration. **MM HYD-1** will be implemented to address the surface runoff generated by pipe flushing. Therefore, any potential impacts from the alteration of the existing drainage pattern will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Source: Project Description

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?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground and will not generate runoff. Any potential impacts from runoff from construction activities will be addressed by the SWPP that is required to be prepared before construction.

After construction has been completed, the new pipeline will need to be flushed and disinfected in order to transfer the water supply for public safety. Any new pipeline segments above the existing percolation basins onsite will divert flushed water to these basins. The remainder of flushed water will flow to the lowest point which is the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Flushed water will be discharged in accordance with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee. Most MS4 discharges from the City infiltrate. Rarely and only during significant runoff events, storm drainage may flow as far as the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) infiltration basins near the City of Palm Springs. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm to ensure infiltration. Additionally, the flushed water will not be a source of polluted runoff since it will have been disinfected. **MM HYD-1** will be implemented to address any capacity and runoff impacts. Therefore, any potential impacts from runoff will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Source: Project Description

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground and will not discharge water or generate runoff. Any potential impacts from runoff during construction activities will be addressed by the SWPPP that is required to be prepared before construction.

After construction has been completed, the new pipeline will need to be flushed and disinfected in order to transfer the water supply for public safety. Any new pipeline segments above the existing percolation basins onsite will divert flushed water to these basins. The remainder of flushed water will flow to the lowest point which is the San Gorgonio River and flow through the existing system. Flushed water will be discharged in accordance with the Whitewater River Watershed MS4 Permit to which the City is a Permittee. Most MS4 discharges from the City infiltrate. Rarely and only during significant runoff events, storm drainage may flow as far as the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) infiltration basins near the City of Palm Springs. Water will be flushed in segments at no more than 100 gpm to ensure infiltration. Additionally, the flushed water will have been disinfected and would not degrade water quality. **MM HYD-1** will be implemented to ensure compliance with water quality standards. Therefore, any potential impacts relating to degrading water quality will be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Source: Project Description

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?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline and does not include construction of any housing. Therefore, **no impact** will occur in this regard.

Source: Project Description

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

As shown on FEMA Panel Nos. 06065C0143G, 06065C0144G, 06065C0806G, 06065C0807G, and 06065C0809G, the proposed Project is within a 100-year flood hazard area. However, since the proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried. There will be minor appurtenance structures for blow offs or valves that will be above ground in a few places along the pipeline alignment, however these structures would not be expected to impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: FEMA

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?

As shown on FEMA Panel Nos. 06065C0143G, 06065C0144G, 06065C0806G, 06065C0807G, and 06065C0809G, the proposed Project does not have any identified levees or dams within the Project boundary. Additionally, since the proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried, implementation of the proposed Project is not expected to 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. Therefore, any potential impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: FEMA

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?

Seiches are seismically-induced oscillation or sloshing of water contained in enclosed bodies of water including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and swimming pools. This hazard is dependent upon the frequency of seismic waves, distance and direction from the epicenter, and site-specific design criteria of the enclosed body of water. Swimming pools and other small bodies of water are likely to incur minor damages in the event of seismically induced seiches. However, seiching could result in the failure of larger bodies of water, including water tanks, retention basins, recharge basins and other water storage structures, and could result in the inundation of land and structures downslope. The proposed Project is adjacent to retention basins, however, the basins are downslope from the access road where they are adjacent to the proposed pipeline alignment. Additionally, the pipeline will be buried underground and not under threat of a sudden seiche flow downstream. Therefore impacts related to inundation by seiche will be less than significant.

Tsunamis are large waves that occur in coastal areas; therefore, since the City is not located in a coastal area, no impacts due to tsunamis will occur.

As discussed in 6a iv) above, strong ground motions can result in landslides, rock slides and rock falls, particularly where saturated ground conditions exist. During an earthquake, groundwater conditions have an influence in the development of seismically induced slope failures, as well as landslides and mudflows. The proposed Project is within an area of mostly low and moderate seismically induced settlement and slope instability, though known landslides have occurred within the area. Prior to construction of proposed Project, site specific Geotechnical Investigations will be prepared to assess the geology and soils present and any hazards associated with landslides or mudflows. **MM GEO-1** and compliance with recommendations from the site specific Geotechnical Investigation will reduce hazards associated with mudflows to a less than significant impact with mitigation.

Therefore, impacts related to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow are **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

Source: GP Exhibit V-2 – Seismically Induced Settlement and Slope Instability; GP DEIR Exhibit III-15 – Seismically Induced Settlement and Slope Instability

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
X. LAND USE 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Land Use and Planning Discussion:

a) Physically divide an established community?

The proposed Project involves replacement of an existing water pipeline. Portions of the proposed Project are on private property, however the pipeline will be buried and not physically divide any established community. Therefore, **no impacts** would occur.

Source: Project Description; GIS Zoning Map

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?

According to the City's GP Land Use Map and Zoning Ordinance, the proposed Project is mostly within an Open Space – Resources land use area, with southern portions also within Ranch/Agriculture and Ranch/Agriculture - Hillside zoned areas. The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline, mostly located within an existing access road. Additionally, the pipeline will be buried and construction activities will be temporary. Therefore the proposed Project will not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: GIS Zoning Map

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

As described in 4 f) above, the Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP – The Pass Area Plan. The Project Site is not located within a MSHCP criteria area cell, group, or linkage area. Implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-6** will address impacts to biological resources. As outlined above in 4f, the project is consistent with the MSHCP. Therefore potential impacts related to conflicting with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

Source: General MSHCP Habitat Assessment/Consistency Analysis prepared by Cadre Environmental, February 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XI. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Mineral Resources Discussion:

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?

Sand and gravel, collectively referred to as aggregate, is the primary mineral resource that is actively being developed in the eastern portion of Banning. Weathering, erosion and other geological processes have deposited materials from the surrounding mountains and hills, forming an alluvial fan with significant deposits of these mineral resources.

The proposed Project is within the Mineral Resource Zone 3 Area (MRZ-3), or areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. The proposed Project is not within the Industrial-Mineral Resources land use designation in the City's GP, which allows surface mining operations on lands designated by the City or State as having significant potential for mineral resources.

The proposed Project involves water pipeline replacement, mostly within an access road that will be buried. Excavation will only occur where the new pipe will be placed in an area where no known significant mineral resource occurs. Therefore, there will be **less than significant** impacts related to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

Source: GP Exhibit IV-8 – Mineral Resource Zones; GP DEIR Table I-3 – City of Banning Draft General Plan Proposed Land Use Designations; GIS Zoning Map

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?

As of 2004, the Banning Quarry, operated by Robertson's Ready Mix, was the only aggregate producer in the City of Banning. The Banning Quarry is mined for rock, sand and base materials used for concrete and construction. The quarry is located in the MRZ-2 zone in the eastern portion of the City.

The proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to the Banning Quarry or any other locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. Further, as described in a) above, the proposed Project is not within the Industrial-Mineral Resources land use designation in the City's GP. Therefore, **no impacts** will occur in this regard.

Source: GP Exhibit IV-8 – Mineral Resource Zones; GP DEIR Table I-3 – City of Banning Draft General Plan Proposed Land Use Designations; GIS Zoning Map

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XII. 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	☐	☐	☒	☐

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Noise Discussion:

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?

During proposed Project construction, temporary increases to ambient noise levels may occur. Noise would occur from the driving and use of construction equipment such as compactors, cranes, excavators, and generators and from a worker-related increase in traffic within the vicinity of the Project site. Sensitive receptors that may be affected by Project generated noise during construction include private residences within 250 feet of the proposed pipeline alignment within a discrete area along Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Title 8 (Health and Safety) of the Banning Municipal Code outlines regulations relations to noise in Chapter 8.44 (Noise). According to Title 8, Chapter 8.44.085, sound emanating from capital improvement projects of a governmental agency is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 8.44. "Capital Improvement" is defined as major construction, acquisition or maintenance/repair projects. Typical examples of major construction would include new street improvements, park development and construction of public buildings or structures, treatment plants. Structures include lighting, sewer and water pipelines and other related utility structures including treatment plants, gas, electric and other infrastructure, landscaping and drainage facilities and all other public infrastructure.

Since the proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline on behalf of the City, the Project is exempt from any noise restrictions during construction. Additionally, since the pipeline will be buried underground, operational noise levels will be minor. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local noise ordinance and any potential impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: BMC – Title 8, Chapter 8.44 Noise; Google Earth

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Construction of development projects can generate ground-borne vibration. In general, demolition of structures preceding construction generates the highest vibrations. The proposed Project does not involve any demolition of structures as the existing water pipeline will be abandoned in place. Construction equipment such as vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers and pavement breakers can generate perceptible vibration during construction activities. Heavy trucks can also generate ground-borne vibrations that vary depending on vehicle type, weight and pavement conditions. Other than the typical construction equipment and methods needed to construct the Project components, no groundborne vibration or noise is expected.

Since the Project construction methods are not anticipated to generate any significant sources of groundborne vibration/noise above those that would normally be associated with construction, and any noise generated during construction will adhere to the Banning Municipal Code standards, impacts relating to exposure and generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels will be **less than significant**.

Source: BMC – Title 8, Chapter 8.44 Noise

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will be buried underground. Operational noise levels will be minor, mainly relating to maintenance. Therefore, the proposed Project will not cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: Project Description

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

The primary source of temporary noise associated with the proposed Project is from construction activity. An Lmax of 86 dBA at 50 feet is commonly used as a maximum construction noise limit by CalTrans. Equipment and operations are usually at or less than that level. Construction equipment that may be utilized by the proposed Project during construction including compactors, cranes, excavators, generators, and all other equipment more than 5 horsepower do not exceed an Lmax of 86 dBA. As discussed in response 12a, above, any Project-related traffic or construction noise will be temporary and will not result in substantial increases in ambient noise levels and the proposed Project is exempt from the provisions of Title 8, Chapter 8.44 of the Municipal Code. However, to reduce noise levels to adjacent to the sensitive receptors located in Phase 1 (Segment 5) and Phase 2 (Segments 1 through 4) of the project, mitigation measures **MM NOI-1** through **MM NOI-3** shall be implemented as outlined in the GP DEIR. Therefore, impacts related to substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

MM NOI-1: During Phase 1 construction along Segment 5 and Phase 2 construction along Segments 1 through 4, construction equipment operating in the Project area shall be fitted with well-maintained functional mufflers to limit noise emissions.

MM NOI-2: During Phase 1 construction along Segment 5 and Phase 2 construction along Segments 1 through 4, earth moving/hauling routes and stockpiling/vehicle staging areas shall be located away from occupied residences, to the greatest extent feasible.

MM NOI-3: During Phase 1 construction along Segment 5 and Phase 2 construction along Segments 1 through 4, construction activities shall take place only during the hours specified in the City's Noise Ordinance (between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.) to reduce noise impacts during sensitive time periods.

Source: CalTrans TNS; BMC – Title 8, Chapter 8.44 Noise; Google Earth; GP DEIR

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?

The proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan and is located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of the Banning Municipal Airport. The proposed Project is also located outside of the 55-65 DB CNEL Banning Municipal Airport noise contours. Therefore, the proposed Project will have **no impact** in this regard.

Source: GP Exhibit V-7 – Airport Noise Contours at Buildout; GP DEIR Exhibit III-27 – Airport Noise Contours at Buildout

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?

The proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, and as such will have **no impact** on people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Source: Google Earth

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XIII. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Population and Housing Discussion:

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)?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline and does not propose new homes or new businesses, and therefore will not directly induce substantial population growth. The proposed Project does involve the replacement of water infrastructure which can indirectly induce population growth, however the Project involves replacing old infrastructure not adding new infrastructure. Therefore, **no impacts** from the proposed Project related to directly or indirectly inducing substantial population growth are expected.

Source: Project Description

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline and thereby will not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there will be **no impact** on housing as a result of the proposed Project.

Source: Project Description

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline in an uninhabited area and thereby will not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there will be **no impact** on housing as a result of the proposed Project.

Source: Project Description

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a. 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:				

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
i. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Public Service Discussion:

a) 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?

i. Fire protection?

Fire protection services are provided to the City of Banning through a contractual agreement with the Riverside County Fire Department, which in turn contracts with the California Department of Forestry. The contract provides various fire related services, including emergency medical services, fire prevention, disaster preparedness, fire safety inspections, hazardous materials business plan programs and plan reviews. Banning Canyon Road and Forest Route 2S01 are currently used by CAL FIRE and the Forest Service for fire access. The proposed Project will not affect fire access to the area, as Project construction will be temporary and secondary access is available through Bluff Street (**Figure 13**). Additionally, the City will be required to notify these other agencies using the roadway of their construction plans prior to construction. The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will not cause an increase in population or any additional fire facilities or impacts to acceptable service ratios, response times, or performance objectives. Therefore, there will be **less than significant impacts** related to fire protection.

Source: GP – Public Services and Facilities; GP DEIR

ii. Police protection?

Police protection services within City limits are provided by the Banning Police Department. The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline and will not cause an increase in population. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have **no impact** in terms of new police facilities or maintaining acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives.

Source: GP – Public Services and Facilities; GP DEIR

iii. Schools?

The City of Banning is served by the Banning Unified School District and the Beaumont Unified School District. The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline and will not cause an increase in population that would require additional school facilities. Therefore, there will be **no impact** in terms of school service.

Source: GP – Public Services and Facilities; GP DEIR

iv. Parks?

Parks and recreation services within the City of Banning are provided by the City Community Services Department. The Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District also provides recreational facilities and services at County owned parks facilities. Since the proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will not cause an increase in population, there will be no need to provide additional park service. Therefore, **no impacts** will occur in terms of adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new park facilities.

Source: GP – Community Development; GP DEIR

v. Other public facilities?

Other public facilities in the City include one U.S. Post Office, the Banning Municipal Airport, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital, and a number of public utility facilities operated by the City Public Works Department including the wells in Banning Canyon.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that will connect to existing wells in Banning Canyon. No additional wells will be constructed as a part of the Project. Therefore, there will be **no impacts** related to the construction of other public facilities.

Source: GP – Public Services and Facilities; GP DEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XV. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Recreation Discussion:

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?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a water pipeline and will not cause an increase in the population. Therefore, the proposed Project would not 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. **No impact** will occur in this regard.

Source: Project Description

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?

The Project will not include new public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there will be **no impact** in this regard.

Source: Project Description

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards 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. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Transportation and Traffic Discussion:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Short-term, construction-related traffic will be generated by the Project. However, since the proposed Project consists of the replacement of an existing water pipeline, the Project will not result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips in the Project area. Traffic generated by any maintenance of these facilities will be minimal and therefore will not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. In addition, implementation of the Project will not modify the existing circulation system or change the existing traffic pattern. Since construction related traffic impacts will be temporary, impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Source: Project description

b) Conflict with applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

Each county in California is required to develop a Congestion Management Program (CMP) that analyzes at the links between land use, transportation and air quality. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is the County of Riverside's Congestion Management Agency. The RCTC prepares and periodically updates the County's CMP to meet federal Congestion Management System guidelines and state CMP legislation.

According to Table 2-1-CMP System of Highways and Roadways, in the 2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program, Interstate 10 and Highway 243 are the only roads in proximity to the Project site listed as part of the CMP System of Highways and Roadways. These roads are not adjacent to the Project site; therefore the Project will have **no impact** in this regard.

Source: RCTC CMP

c) Result in change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that that will be buried underground. Implementation of the proposed Project will not change air traffic patterns, increase air traffic levels or change the location of air traffic patterns. As such, **no impact** will occur.

Source: Project Description

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The proposed Project does not propose any design features that would increase traffic hazards, as the proposed pipeline will be buried primarily within an existing access road and will follow existing

road alignment. Therefore, the project will have a **less than significant** impact on increasing hazards through design or incompatible uses.

Source: Project Description

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The Project site currently has access from Banning Canyon Road/Forest Route 2S01, Mias Canyon Road, and Bluff Street which provides the current emergency access and will continue to do so after the proposed Project is implemented. Additionally, the proposed pipeline alignment is along the site access main road (Banning Canyon Road/Forest Route 2S01), currently a dirt road. During Project construction, the pipeline will be buried under the road and fill will be compacted to level the road. This improvement will enhance the project site's emergency access after construction.

The Project will temporarily affect approximately 150 feet of Banning Canyon Road/Forest Route 2S01 per day during construction along Segments 8 through 18. Secondary access to this area will be available through Bluff Street and other minor access roads as shown on **Figure 13**. Phase 1 construction is expected to last approximately 100 working days or 4.5 months. During this time it is anticipated that parts of the roadway would be passable, as Phase 1 is broken up by segments. The segments of Phase 2 that will temporarily impact Banning Canyon Road/Forest Route 2S01 will be similar in length to Phase 1. Temporary impacts to Mias Canyon Road during Phase 2 along Segment 0 will not affect emergency access due to existing secondary bypass roads.

The City contracts for fire protection with the Riverside County Fire Department/CalFire. Currently there is one fire station and two fire engines staffed for emergency response in the City. The Project will be reviewed according to Municipal Code Section 8, Chapter 8.16 (Fire Protection Code) to ensure compliance with the California Fire Code. As such, the Project will provide adequate emergency access in accordance with City regulations and requirements. Therefore, a **less than significant impact** will occur.

Source: BMC Section 8, Chapter 8.16 – Fire Protection Code

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

The GP identifies that sidewalks, bike lanes, off-street trails and golf cart routes are especially important along major roadways in the community. In May 2002, the Banning City Council approved the final Pass Area Transit Plan. The Transit Plan establishes the Pass Transit System, which consists of two independent transit systems, the Banning Municipal Transit System and the Beaumont Municipal Transit System. Regional bus service is provided by the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA), which provides services to Hemet/San Jacinto (Route 31), Moreno Valley (Route 35), and Calimesa/Redlands (Route 36).

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline and will not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, **no impact** will occur.

Source: GP – Community Development

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Tribal Cultural Resources Discussion:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

Applied Earthworks contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on May 31, 2016 for a review of the Sacred Land File (SLF), to determine if any known Native American cultural properties (e.g., traditional use or gathering areas, places of religious or sacred activity, etc.) are present within or adjacent to the Project area. The NAHC responded on June 1, 2016 stating that the SLF search was completed with negative results. The NAHC requested that Native American individuals and organizations be contacted to elicit information and/or concerns regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project. A letter describing the Project and asking these individuals and organizations for their input was sent via United States Postal Service (USPS) and electronic mail on June 27, 2016. A second attempt at correspondence was made on July 12, 2016.

As of July 18, 2016, three responses were received. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians had no concerns regarding the Project area, and deferred further consultation to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians stated that the Project is located outside of the Tribe's current reservation boundaries, but within an area that may be considered a traditional use area. The Tribe has no specific archival information indicating that the Project area may be a sacred/religious site or other site of Native American traditional cultural value. However,

the Cabazon Band suggests there be an archaeologist on site during all ground-disturbing activities to monitor for the discovery of unknown cultural resources. The Cahuilla Band of Indians deferred to the Morongo Band of Indians; however if the Morongo Band has no interest in the Project, the Cahuilla Band of Indians would like to be consulted. In addition, the Cahuilla Band recommends Cahuilla Native American Monitors be present during any and all earth disturbances activities associated with the Project.

In response to the City's AB 52 consultation request, the City met with a representative from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians on December 14, 2016 and on March 16, 2017 the City received a letter from the Soboba representative with requests for measures to include development of a Tribal Monitoring Plan and Native American monitoring with consulting tribes, procedures for treatment and final disposition of cultural resources, and procedures following state law if human remains are found. Also on March 16, 2017 the City of Banning met with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians representatives to discuss the Project; this meeting was followed up with a written request for conditions related to procedures to be followed in the case of unanticipated discovery of cultural resources, discovery of human remains, monitoring by Morongo tribal monitors during grading, preconstruction cultural sensitivity training, and artifact disposition. MM CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, and CR-4 have been included to accommodate requests from the Morongo tribe. Additionally, the incorporation of these MM will meet the requests of the Soboba as well.

Source: Soboba Letter, March 16, 2017, Cultural Resource Assessment prepared by Applied Earthworks, March 2017.

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), signed into law in 2014, amended CEQA and established new requirements for tribal notification and consultation. AB 52 applies to all projects for which a notice of preparation or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration is issued after July 1, 2015. AB 52 also broadly defines a new resource category of tribal cultural resources and established a more robust process for meaningful consultation that includes:

- prescribed notification and response timelines;
- consultation on alternatives, resource identification, significance determinations, impact evaluation, and mitigation measures; and
- documentation of all consultation efforts to support CEQA findings

The following tribes responded in writing to the City's AB 52 consultation request; Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Consultation was requested by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians; the other responding tribes indicated that consultation was not needed and/or deferred to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

As noted in Threshold XVII. a) above, the City met with a representative from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians on December 14, 2016 and on March 16, 2017 the City received a letter from the Soboba representative with requests for measures to include development of a Tribal Monitoring Plan and Native American monitoring with consulting tribes, procedures for treatment and final disposition of cultural resources, and procedures following state law if human remains are found. Also on March 16, 2017 the City of Banning met with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians representatives to discuss the Project; this meeting was followed up with a written request for conditions related to procedures to be followed in the case of unanticipated discovery of cultural resources, discovery of human remains, monitoring by Morongo tribal monitors during grading, preconstruction cultural sensitivity training, and artifact disposition. At this meeting it was communicated to the City that the Morongo have the closest link to the resources that could be discovered during project construction. No other Native American tribes commented on correspondence regarding the Project under AB 52. The other Native American tribes that commented on the project did so as part of the cultural resources assessment, as shown above in Threshold XVII. a).

Source:

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XVIII. 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 or 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 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Utilities and Service Systems Discussion:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that does not produce wastewater nor require wastewater treatment. The new pipeline will need to be disinfected and flushed prior to operation; however, these would be single events during each phase of construction in a quantity that would not exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the Colorado River Basin RWQCB. Compliance with the provisions of the SWRCB Construction General Permit will ensure that these requirements are met. If it is necessary to discharge flushed water onsite, then **MM HYD-1** will be implemented which would ensure compliance with the water quality standards of the RWQCB. Therefore, there will be a **less than significant with mitigation** in terms of exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB.

Source: Project Description; SWRCB

b) Require or result in the construction or relocation of new water or wastewater treatment or transmission facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline to which environmental impacts are being evaluated herein. The analysis included herein indicates that all environmental effects associated with the proposed Project will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

Source: Project Description; Above Initial Study

c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline and will not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, there will be **no impact**.

Source: Project Description

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

The City of Banning overlies the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin. The San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Basin includes five hydraulically-connected groundwater storage units, which constitute the City of Banning groundwater resource area: the Banning Storage Unit, the Banning Bench Storage Unit, the Banning Canyon Storage Unit, the Cabazon Storage Unit, and the Beaumont Storage Unit. Groundwater recharge to the Banning area is obtained from precipitation infiltrating into the ground within the surface water catchments and particularly in the canyons north of the City. An additional source of recharge is subsurface inflow (i.e. underflow) from storage unit to storage unit, infiltration of Whitewater River diversions in the Banning Canyon, and from infiltration of treated wastewater into the Cabazon Storage Unit. The Banning Canyon area receives water from the infiltration of canyon flows through the gravelly soils of the canyon bottom. The San Gorgonio River running southerly through the Banning Canyon provides intake areas for

distributing water to spreading ditches that interconnect with spreading ponds located approximately one mile north of the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration.

The Banning Canyon Storage Unit is the largest storage unit within the City of Banning. The total surface area of the Storage Unit is approximately 1,058 acres or 1.7 square miles. The primary surface water drainage feature within this storage unit is the San Gorgonio River. The canyon bottom comprises alluvium and the canyon sides are bedrock. The City currently operates eight active production wells with a total capacity of approximately 8,600 gpm. Most of the City of Banning's groundwater is produced from the aquifer within this storage unit. Additional recharge occurs through the operation of diversion of surface water from the upper reaches of the Whitewater River Drainage into Banning Canyon (Banning Canyon Storage Unit), which was initiated in 1913. The diverted water flows along steep mountain slopes for approximately 14 miles in a mostly concrete-lined conveyance system known as "The Flume". Banning Heights Mutual Water Company utilizes approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Whitewater River diversions, the remainder of the diverted water flows into the San Gorgonio River below the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company extraction point. A portion of the natural runoff and the Whitewater River diversions are diverted into spreading ponds located adjacent to the Banning Bench to enhance infiltration. The safe yield of the Banning Canyon Storage Unit was estimated in 2011 to be 4,070 AFY.

City Public Works and Utilities provides domestic water services to the City of Banning and unincorporated Riverside County lands located southwesterly of the City limits. The City owns and operates wells, reservoirs, and a distribution line system to deliver domestic water within their service area. The City has water lines ranging from 2 inches to 30 inches in diameter. The City Water Master Plan includes mapping showing all the existing water system for the City.

The proposed Project involves replacement of the existing main water transmission pipeline on behalf of the City Public Works and Utilities Department which serves the Banning Canyon Storage Unit in order to make the transmission of the water more safe and reliable. Therefore, the City has sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: Project Description; GP DEIR; Banning UWMP

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?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline that does not produce wastewater nor require wastewater treatment. Therefore there will be **no impact** in terms of adequate wastewater treatment capacity.

Source: Project Description

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

The proposed Project involves the replacement of an existing water pipeline. Solid waste will only be generated during Project construction, some of which will be recycled, and the existing pipeline will be abandoned in place. The proposed Project is served by the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill

which accepts 5,500 tons per day and is planned to be operational until 2029. Therefore, potential impacts related to landfill capacity and solid waste disposal needs will be **less than significant**.

Source: CalRecycle

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The collection and disposal of solid waste would conform to applicable federal, State, and local plans and regulations, including AB 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) that local jurisdictions divert at least 50% of all solid waste generated by January 1, 2000. The proposed Project will adhere to all federal, State and local regulations related to solid waste during construction and operation. Therefore, the proposed Project would have **no impact** in terms of complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Source: GP DEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XVIV. 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 an 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion:

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 an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

As discussed throughout the Initial Study, the proposed Project area contains some sensitive biological resources that could potentially be affected by the project. All potentially significant impacts to biological resources would be avoided or reduced to a less than significant impact with the implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-6** identified in this initial study and measures already incorporated into the project.

The presence of any previously recorded or potential cultural resources was not found on the proposed Project site. Further, the site has been previously disturbed and it is highly unlikely that any cultural resources could exist. However, in order to provide protection in the unlikely event that cultural resources are unearthed during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR-1** through **MM CR-3** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant with mitigation.

Therefore, the proposed Project's impacts in terms of 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 an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

Source: Above Initial Study

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)?

As demonstrated by the analysis in this Initial Study, most of the proposed Project's potential impacts are temporary and will cease once construction is complete. The proposed Project will not result in any impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The Project is consistent with local and regional plans, and the Project's air quality emissions do not exceed established thresholds of significance. The Project adheres to all other land use plans and policies with jurisdiction in the Project area, and will not increase traffic volumes within the Project area. The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) and will not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and/or housing growth. Therefore, impacts will be **less than significant**.

Source: Above Initial Study

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

Effects on human beings were evaluated as part of the aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology & water quality, noise, population and housing, and traffic sections of this initial study and found to be less than significant for each of the above sections with implementation of mitigation measures **MM GEO-1**, **MM HAZ-1**, and **MM NOI-1** through **MM NOI-3**. Based on the analysis and conclusions in this initial study, the proposed Project will not cause substantial adverse effects directly or indirectly to human beings. Therefore, potential direct and indirect impacts on human beings that result from the proposed Project are considered **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

Source: Above Initial Study

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.09, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21073, 21074, 210808(c), 21080.1, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21082.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21084.2, 21084.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino,* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors,* (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; P*rotect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109*; San Francisco Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

EARLIER ANALYSES

Earlier analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration as per California Code of Regulations, Section 1503 (c) (3) (D).

Earlier Analysis Used, if any:

None

REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following documents were referred to as information sources during preparation of this document. They are available for public review at the locations abbreviated after each listing and spelled out at the end of this section. Some of these documents may also be available at the Banning Public Library.

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CCR	California Code of Regulations. (Available at https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Index?transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29 , accessed July 20, 2016.)
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DOC — California Department of Conservation, California Important Farmland Finder. (Available at http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html, accessed July 20, 2016.)

DOC WA — California Department of Conservation, Land Conservation (Williamson) Act, Riverside County Land Conservation Act Map. (Available at ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/Riverside_w_15_16_WA.pdf, accessed July 20, 2016.)

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LIST OF INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

Albert A. Webb Associates
3788 McCray Street, Riverside, CA 92506

Planning and Environmental Services Department
Stephanie Standerfer, Vice President
Cynthia Gibbs, Senior Project Manager

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

Receipt #: 17-176746

State Clearinghouse # (if applicable):

Lead Agency: CITY OF BANNING *Date:* 06/06/2017

County Agency of Filing: RIVERSIDE *Document No:* E-201700698

Project Title: BANNING WATER CANYON PIPELINE REPLACEMENT

Project Applicant Name: CITY OF BANNING *Phone Number:* (951) 922-3130

Project Applicant Address: 99 E. RAMSEY STREET, BANNING, CA 92220

Project Applicant: LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ *Environmental Impact Report*	
☐ *Negative Declaration*	
☐ *Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only)*	
☐ *Project Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs*	
☐ *County Administration Fee*	$0.00
☐ *Project that is exempt from fees (DFG No Effect Determination (Form Attached))*	
☐ *Project that is exempt from fees (Notice of Exemption)*	
Total Received	$0.00

Signature and title of person receiving payment: B. Kennemer Deputy

Notes: